SEPTEMBER • 1959

FIREMEN

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See page 7

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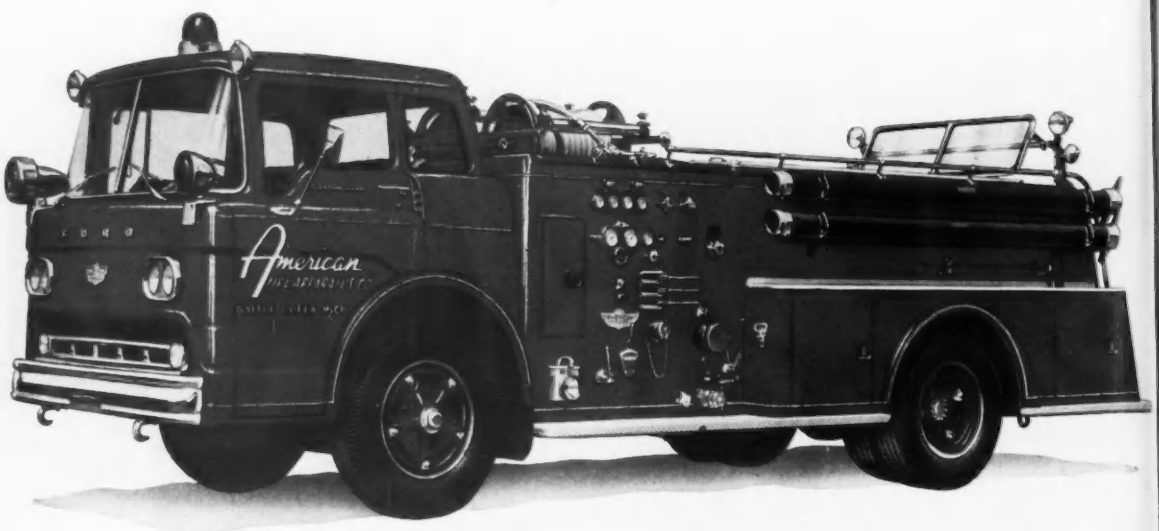

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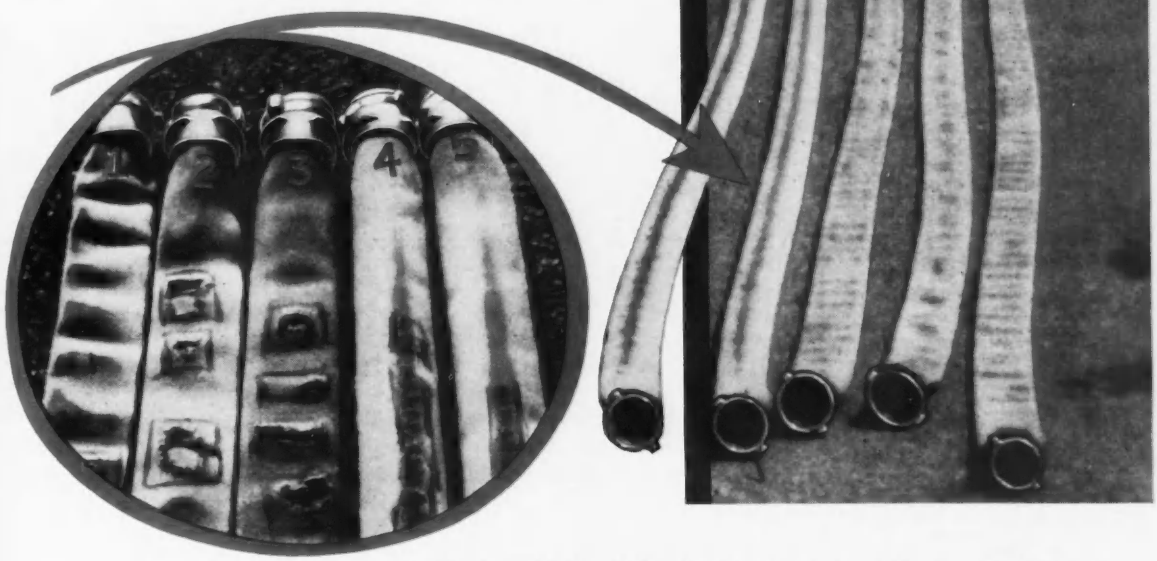

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FIREMEN

A monthly magazine published for the fire service members of the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts.

Volume 26 • Number 9

Warren Y. Kimball . . . . . *Editor*
Paul R. Lyons . . . . . *Associate Editor*
Henry S. Gere . . . . . *Advertising Manager*
Dianne Kofman . . . . . *Editorial Assistant*
Shirley Tobey . . . . . *Fire Service Department*
Virginia Stiles . . . . . *Advertising Department*
Marion Stuart . . . . . *Circulation*

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In a suburban area served by a volunteer fire department the growth of the community has led to appropriation of funds to provide a certain number of paid men. These jobs were offered to volunteer firemen who could pass a qualifying examination. To the embarrassment of all concerned, over 70 per cent of the volunteers including a number of "the most experienced men" taking the exam failed to get a passing mark of 70 per cent. This brings up several interesting questions. Did the examination reflect the type of knowledge that a good paid fire fighter is expected to pass? Was the experience of the volunteers of the type that would fit them for the job or did it mainly indicate a period of membership in the organization? Persons preparing examinations have a responsibility to make the test as true a reflection of the job as is possible. Candidates have a responsibility to prepare for the job and should not assume that a period of membership automatically qualifies them for a more responsible position, particularly one where lives and property are at stake.

This incident brings to mind an occurrence a few years ago when a majority of men taking a promotional examination in a city fire department failed to pass the test probably because at that time the department had an inadequate training program. The men protested that the examination was too difficult. To settle the matter the same test was given to an equal number of volunteer firemen participating in the state firemen's training program. These men passed with flying colors showing that it was the training and preparation of the paid men that was lacking. It's the old story that an examination is not difficult if you know the right answers.

●

Los Angeles County fire fighters handled an unusual fire in Maywood on July 20. It involved nearly 100 tons of wax of a crayon manufacturing company, piled on flats four to five feet high on a loading platform adjacent to a double-tracked railroad spur. Almost simultaneous box, telephone and water flow alarms came to fire alarm headquarters at 2:59 p.m. The central dispatcher sent the full assignment for the manufacturing district, which included five engine companies, a truck and a rescue company, and a battalion chief.

An engine company promptly ran a line to the fire department sprinkler connection, giving extra water supply to sprinklers already operating in a nearby corrugated metal on wood frame structure. The flaming wax meantime flowed out to cover portions of two streets. As shown on this month's cover, Truck 27 operated a ladder pipe to protect exposures and the man on the pipe got some welcome protection from a hand line stream. Two additional engine companies and a truck company were called at 3:11 p.m. In general, the wax fire was extinguished by water fog applied by hand lines. Later bulldozers and trucks were used to clear the wax from the streets. Thousands of feet of fire hose were covered with the wax which eventually was removed by warm water. (*Cover picture — Los Angeles County Fire Department photo.*)

ORGANIZATION TO MAN A BASIC

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE GROUP

by Warren Y. Kimball, Manager, NFPA Fire Service Department, and Editor, FIREMEN Magazine

A MINIMUM response group for fires in dwellings and other small structures has been defined as three pieces of apparatus manned by not less than 12 men under command of a chief officer. This force would be organized to provide two engine companies and one ladder or "truck" company, with not less than 4 men on duty and responding with any company.

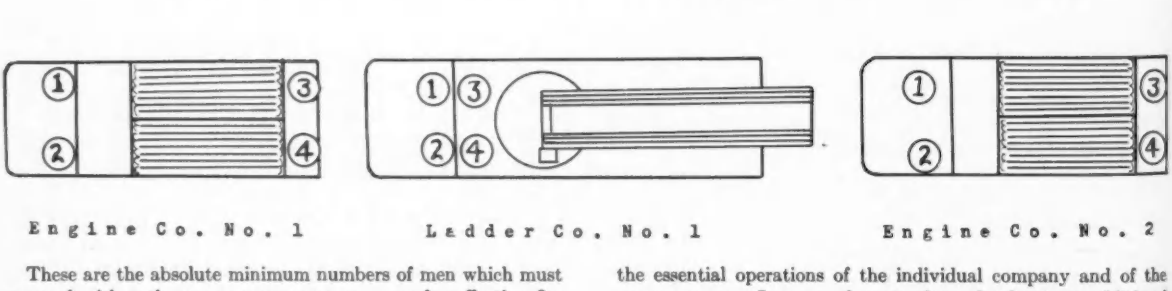
The recommended practice set forth here is designed to provide a basic first alarm response capable of attacking a fire from at least two positions (for example, from front and rear), together with the essential truck company support. It is also capable of preventing extension of the average fire to exposed property until adequate help can be obtained. Such a properly organized response group largely eliminates the common fire ground failures which occur where initial response is too little and adequate help arrives too late, where there are not enough men on each truck for effective operations, and where no effective fire ground tactics can be employed due to lack of organization.

A four-man crew is the absolute minimum needed for the effective operation of a pumper or "engine company." This crew consists of a company officer who is a working member of the crew, assisted by two hosemen and a pump operator. This permits use of one small line (booster or 1½-in. hose) backed up by one 2½-in. hand line, or two small lines (where the company is not required to operate the 2½-in. line simultaneously with a small line). Also, two 2½-in. lines may be laid by this crew to a heavy stream device. Normally, three men are needed to advance and operate a 2½-in. hand line on a working fire and the third man is obtained by using the man who normally would operate the small line. The four-man crew makes possible the application of up to 300 gallons per minute with hand lines, although not with the speed and efficiency possible with a larger crew. With less than four men, the engine company can only operate small streams suitable only for incipient fires.

Two such engine companies are the minimum needed for any structural fire. This not only permits attack on the fire from more than one point of vantage, but allows one company to use several small streams while the other company backs up the initial attack with a properly manned big line. Also, there is a factor of safety in a two-pumper response because traffic delays or accidents, mechanical failure of the apparatus, pump or hose, or failure of a given hydrant will not prevent prompt placement of streams in service. Such delays and accidents can be serious where reliance is placed upon a single pumper company.

The fire fighting job includes many other activities other than operating pumps and hose. These jobs require at least half as much manpower as the directing of streams, and in well organized fire departments are assigned to ladder or "truck" companies. The duties of such companies specifically include rescue, forcible entry, ventilation and salvage. Six men on duty constitute a normal recommended ladder company crew and four men constitute the absolute minimum for an effective ladder company. This crew would consist of an officer and three laddermen including the apparatus operator (and a tillerman if required for steering). The four-man crew can provide two men for rescue, forcible entry and ventilation, while operating the aerial ladder or placing ladders up to a 35-ft. extension. Where manually raised ladders are longer than 35 ft. it may be necessary to take men from other duties. The four-man ladder company can operate emergency equipment on the truck including generator and lights, smoke ejector and may do salvage work after rescue, forcible entry, ventilation and ladder work have been completed.

Minimum Manning of Three Company Response Group



Engine Co. No. 1 Ladder Co. No. 1 Engine Co. No. 2

These are the absolute minimum numbers of men which must respond with a three-company response group for effective fire department operations in districts of low or ordinary hazard. Failure to cover any of the positions shown will seriously impair the essential operations of the individual company and of the response group. In areas of greater hazard at least one additional hoseman for each engine company and two additional laddermen will be needed for effective minimum strength.

The ladder company crew commonly operates resuscitation equipment. At major fires truckmen may also be assigned to running lines to heavy stream devices including ladder pipes.

To be effective the required minimum manpower must respond on the apparatus of designated companies under the command of company officers. Efficient operations are not possible where members straggle to a fire as individuals or where several small groups must be combined to carry out normal company operations.

As any individual is not continuously on duty or available at all times, a sufficient number of trained men must be on the roster to assure that the required minimum force will always be available. For efficient fire fighting operations and effective use of each piece of apparatus, it is important that the men be organized into companies and assigned to respond with and operate the several pieces of apparatus.

Although the exact type of equipment may vary, there are very few departments which do not have sufficient apparatus to provide the necessary minimum of three pieces for first-alarm response to all building fires. In fact, many small departments have reserve apparatus which could provide a "second line" response group for major emergencies. What is needed is proper organization including maintenance of a detailed roster which will assure adequate manning of essential first line apparatus at all times. The organization and roster suggested here not only provide for such manning but provide a chain of command so as to make clear who is in charge of each company and unit at all times. The suggestions set forth are not new

Typical Response Group Roster

	Platoon A		Platoon B	
	On Response	**Off Response**	**On Response**	**Off Shift**
Response Group Chiefs	Chief H. W. Griffin	Chief D. R. Crimmin	Chief L. A. Glover	Chief T. R. O'Donnel
Engine Co. 1	Capt. T. F. McManus T. J. Savage W. R. Stratton W. F. Goyette	Lt. A. J. Andersen C. E. Donovan F. M. Upton J. F. Brady	Capt. F. B. Clement D. W. Hart F. W. Peters J. J. Donohue	Lt. E. J. Dougherty F. E. Marine R. J. Harrison J. T. O'Connor
Engine Co. 2	Lt. F. F. Carman H. F. Moran F. J. Doyle J. E. Kenney	Capt. J. D. Griffith J. H. Coakley J. F. Fitzpatrick F. P. Dakowski	Lt. P. M. Angelo M. J. Dowd L. J. Moffitt L. A. Tanner	Capt. P. B. Buckley J. P. Murray A. L. Wise J. P. Connell
Ladder Co. 1	Capt. D. E. Carpenter J. S. Castrora R. W. Burns R. F. Ochs	Lt. J. P. Bruce R. J. Sullivan P. H. Morris E. R. Byrne	Capt. J. E. Miller A. E. Mahan G. D. Ford F. J. Roy	Lt. T. D. Crocker C. J. Reardon R. P. Harvey F. G. Roche
Dispatchers	P. F. Cunniff	F. B. Lydon	E. J. White	J. K. Arthur
Reserve	J. A. Lucas H. W. Tripp P. L. Callahan			

Here is a typical response group roster showing officers and men assigned to man two engines and a ladder company. The roster also provides for chief officers to command the response group and four fire dispatchers to handle communications at headquarters. Where some other agency such as the local police handles the dispatching, the latter listing would not be needed, but it is essential that communications be maintained with headquarters at all times.

The response group is organized into two platoons, one of which is responsible for furnishing the on-duty crew to respond with the apparatus while the other platoon is off and available on call to man reserve apparatus. Under normal working hours in a paid department not all of the on-duty platoon will be available for response. Some members probably will be absent because of days off, vacations and sick leave.

Platoon A is assumed to be on duty and the officers and men listed under the heading "On Response" would be immediately available to man the apparatus of the companies shown. The members of the platoon shown as "Off Response" would not be available in the station but in case of a major fire might be recalled to assist the companies if they are in town and physically able to do fire duty.

Company officers are required to know the status of their platoon members at all times. In a volunteer fire department it would be expected that all members of the on-duty platoon would respond and the first four members of each company would ride with the apparatus. The off-duty platoon would cover the reserve apparatus as needed. Each of the two platoons is expected to man the apparatus for half of the 168-hour week, but the average "on response" time for each man will be something less than this, depending upon the nominal work week.

This size roster would be required to provide a minimum of four men with each fire company under a 48- or 56-hour week. On some days the company might have five men available for response with the apparatus but as other companies may be short-handed on the same days, it may be necessary for chiefs to detail men from the stronger companies to the weaker companies for a particular tour of duty.

but are methods which have been used in efficient fire departments over many years and have been proved successful.

As titles used to designate rank may vary widely in different departments, it is necessary for the purpose of this discussion to use the term "Response Group Chief" for the officer in command of the first alarm response. This may be a chief, assistant chief, deputy chief, district chief, battalion chief, or even an "acting chief." The term "Company Commander" is used for the officer on duty in command of a duly organized engine or ladder company. This may be a captain, junior captain, lieutenant, sergeant, or, at times, a senior fire fighter.

The manpower figures recommended for each company and the fire department response group are absolute minimums and refer to the number of men responding with their company apparatus. Men detailed away from a company for other duty should be considered to be only part of the available reserve and not a part of the operating strength of the company. This includes men sent out on inspection work and not available to respond with their apparatus. However, where an entire company is inspecting as a unit and is covering its normal response assignments, it is considered as part of the required minimum response group.

Minimum Manpower for Response

It has been determined that, to assure the required minimum response, at least four men are needed to cover each assignment in a company. Thus, to assure a minimum response of 12 men, at least 48 men are needed on the group roster.

To assure a minimum response of 4 men on a company, at least 16 men are needed on a company roster. In districts where at least 5 men are needed to respond with each company at least 20 men should be on the roster. If men are available less than 48 hours per week on the average, more men will be required.

The way the members are assigned to duty will vary. Where men are paid to be on duty with the apparatus, duty tours are arranged either on a 24-hour working shift basis or on a shorter 10- and 14-hour day and night shift basis. Where part or all of the men are not required to be on duty in the station or with the apparatus but answer calls for fires and drills from home or elsewhere (part-paid or volunteer firemen), it is equally important that the men have definite duty schedules and assignments. Where this is not done the results can be quite serious, for chance response can and does vary from no response to full company manning and makes effective company operations impossible. By having definite duty assignments every member can go about his normal business and know whether he is being counted on for immediate first alarm response or whether he is on an off-duty period subject only to possible recall for a major fire when full manpower is needed. In many communities using part-paid or volunteer fire fighters the periods of duty are scheduled in accordance with men's availability. Men working out of town may agree to respond nights and weekends. Men working in the community may agree to respond weekdays but will have certain evenings and weekends off duty. The duty rosters are arranged so that every company has the required minimum number responding at all times. Men on the off platoon are not counted as members of the required response unit except where they are assigned substitutes for a man of the same rank on the opposite shift.

Dispatchers

In all cases where chief officers and companies are out of quarters at fires or for other reasons, it is essential that a dispatcher be available to receive and transmit messages from the fire ground or "mobile units," to pass pertinent information along to fire ground commanders. Accordingly, it is essential that the chief designate dispatchers to handle communications. The dispatchers should preferably be members of the fire department, but in small communities a police or sheriff's office may serve as the dispatch center or several small fire departments may use a central dispatcher. At no time should a fire response group be out of touch with its base dispatcher who knows where desired help can be obtained on order of the chief at the fire. In addition, the officer in charge at the fire must maintain communications with the dispatcher as called for in the department's rules. If he does not have an aide specifically charged with these duties he may direct one of the pump operators or another fire department member to serve as communications man at the fire.

Response Group Chief

In addition to the company members there must be a chief or assistant chief available to respond to assume overall command of the unit. The same ratio of availability would indicate that 4 chief officers would be needed but, in any event, not less than one chief and one assistant chief should be provided. Where aides or drivers are provided for chief officers these should not be counted as part of required company personnel.

There should be sufficient chief officers so that company officers will not be taken from their commands to act as chief on a routine basis. Where it is necessary to have a company officer as an acting chief, it is important that required company strength be maintained.

In addition to the roster of active company members assigned to platoons, a roster of men available for major emergencies who can be drawn upon at times to maintain minimum strength is desirable. This reserve list may include probationary men, men detailed from regular fire fighting assignments, substitutes, and older members exempt from routine fire duty who are willing to help when needed.

Company Organization

For administrative purposes, including assignment of men to duty, fire companies are divided into platoons or groups. A usual arrangement is to have A and B platoons. One of the platoons provides the duty force at any given time while the other is off duty. To bring the hours of duty at a fire station to a reasonable figure, only part of the on-duty platoon is expected to be in the station and to respond with the apparatus to normal fires. For example, if a company of 16 men is divided into two 8-man platoons, half of the platoon must be immediately available to respond with the apparatus to provide the necessary minimum 4-man manning for the company apparatus. With fire fighters paid to be on

(*Continued on page 30*)

Ready to Tell Your Story?

THIS year Fire Prevention Week comes October 4–10. It is well known that fire departments throughout the United States will be thoroughly occupied during the week, impressing their respective communities with the modern standards of fire department service and the need for diligent attention to fire safety.

Through the years a great many of these fire prevention efforts have been reported in FIREMEN magazine particularly in the issues that have been devoted to the winners of the NFPA Fire Prevention Contest. It is time now for fire departments to think about that contest for the deadline for entries is less than two months away.

Based on the experience of previous years, the NFPA expects more than 1,500 cities, industrial firms, military units and government divisions to compete in the forthcoming 1959 contest. This international competition to provide recognition is now in its thirty-second year and is one of the most widely known means of providing recognition for excellence in fire safety education and performance.

Fire departments and other organizations that enter the contest submit books reporting their year-round fire prevention programs which, of course, include the impressive Fire Prevention Week activities. This year's February issue of FIREMEN magazine analyzed the programs of last year's two Grand Award winners, one in the United States and one in Canada. So, fire departments who plan to enter the contest for the first time should read that issue for guidance. Entries for this year's contest must arrive at the NFPA Executive Office by November 30, 1959.

Complete instructions for submitting an entry to the contest are contained on the entry forms available from the NFPA Public Relations Department in Boston, Massachusetts. There are separate forms for municipal, industrial, government and military entries. Every fire department, regardless of size, is invited to submit an entry to the contest. Last year's top winners in the municipal division were Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Ocean Falls, British Columbia. The industrial division Grand Award winner was Ford Motor Company's M-E-L Assembly Plant at Pico-Rivera, California.

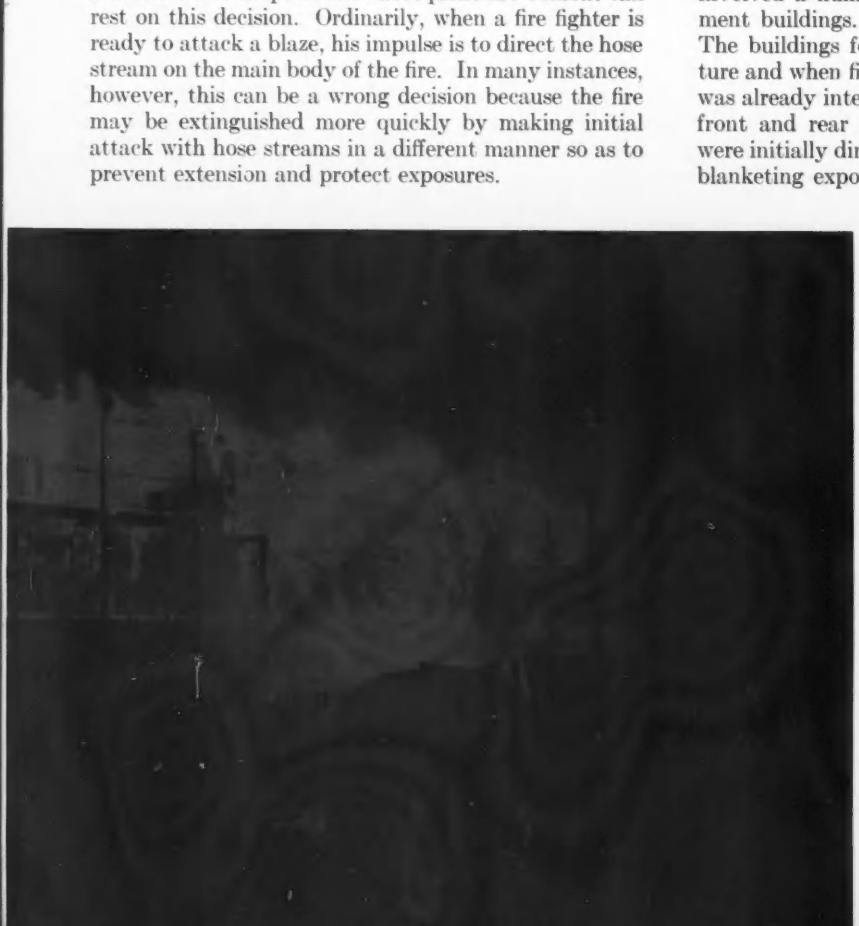
First in the government division was General Services Administration Region No. 3, Washington, D. C. In the military division, Grand Awards went to U. S. Army's Fort Ord, to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, to the Hingham, Massachusetts, Naval Ammunition Depot, and to HMC Dockyard Esquimalt in British Columbia.

(*Right*) Fire ground conditions shortly after first alarm companies got into position in rear of involved structures. An adjustable nozzle is used on this 2½-in. line.

WHAT TO DO WITH "A WORKER"

SUCCESS in fire attack usually depends on fundamental command decisions. Often this decision simply concerns where and how to use available water and the entire scope of the subsequent fire combat can rest on this decision. Ordinarily, when a fire fighter is ready to attack a blaze, his impulse is to direct the hose stream on the main body of the fire. In many instances, however, this can be a wrong decision because the fire may be extinguished more quickly by making initial attack with hose streams in a different manner so as to prevent extension and protect exposures.

The photos on these pages help to emphasize this point. On a recent August evening, the Boston, Massachusetts, Fire Department responded to this fire which involved a number of three-story, wood frame apartment buildings. This fire was definitely "a worker." The buildings formed practically one continual structure and when first alarm companies responded, the fire was already intense. Companies took their positions in front and rear of the structures and primary efforts were initially directed towards cutting off fire spread by blanketing exposures with a protective water curtain.



(*Left*) The same crew directs stream to protect close exposure, rather than attempting to use water ineffectually on involved structures. Eventually this fire brought four-alarm response, but it was confined within the group of structures initially involved. (*All photos by Bill Keefe, Boston Fire Department photographer.*)

Here fire fighters use straight stream to smash windows, after which fog was used as a water curtain to protect building on left.

Later the 2½-in. lines were reduced to 1½-in. lines, using the same nozzles, and fire fighters went up over aluminum ground ladders for interior attack and confinement of fire.

Assistant Chief William Terenzi directed this attack as acting chief of department in the absence of Chief Leo Driscoll. In the rear of the structure, fire fighters directed streams on all close exposures using adjustable nozzles on 2½-in. lines. This was quickly supplemented by a powerful stream from a ladder pipe.

In the front of the building fire fighters used straight streams from 2½-in. fog nozzles to clean out the windows in the end structures and then used a fog pattern to establish a good curtain of water fog between the last involved building and the nearest exposure. A wagon "gun" was also operated in the front. Once the fire area was stabilized the direct attack began. The men simply added lengths of 1½-in. line to the 2½-in. line and using the same adjustable nozzles moved in for final attack and mop-up. Once the fire had been confined and exposures had been taken care of the interior fires were quickly extinguished and companies were making up within an hour. Despite fast response and well-coordinated fire attack, this fire took the life of a seven-year-old girl and left seventy-five persons homeless.

Another view of the rear of structures after main body of fire was knocked down. Fire fighters are moving in with 1½-in. leader lines.

(Left) Ladder truck, brought to rear of buildings, directed effective heavy stream supplied through 3-in. hose on ladder.

Houston's old No. 10 station, built in 1900, was replaced by new station.

Also torn down and replaced was this No. 8 station built in 1896.

The old No. 12 station, built in 1916, in the north side of Houston.

Throw Out the Old . . .

ON MAY 29, the Houston, Texas, Fire Department headed by Chief C. M. Bullock officially opened four new fire stations, Nos. 3, 8, 10 and 12. Stations 8 and 10 are in the high value downtown area and Stations 3 and 12 are in the southwest and north sides of Houston, respectively.

The buildings replace older stations built in the early 1900's. Stations 8 and 10 are of fire-resistive construction with face brick and tile, concrete lower floors and light aggregate upper floors and roofs. The buildings have 32-ft. frontage, are 65-ft. deep and have more than 2,000 sq. ft. on each floor. They are identical in design and construction and were built from the same set of plans. Each cost $68,601. The ground floor of each station has double overhead front doors and a single rear overhead door. The engine room can accommodate two pieces of apparatus. There is also a watch office, a small washroom, bunker room, and a radio generating room on this floor. The second floor has a food bar and kitchen combination, a lounge room, shower room and dormitory.

Stations 3 and 12 are one-story L-shaped buildings approximately 51-ft. deep. Each has an 84-ft. frontage and about 4,200 sq. ft. of area. The apparatus room has double overhead front doors and at the rear is the watch office, kitchen and lounge room. Double swinging doors lead from the engine room to the locker room, wash and shower room and dormitory and the captain's room and private bath.

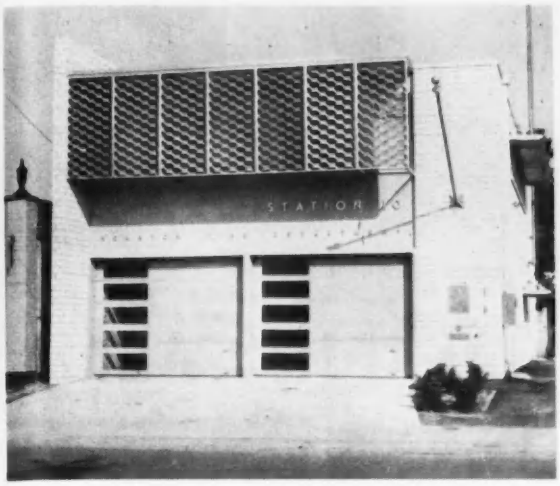
Each of these stations cost $72,510 plus $6,843 for land for the No. 12 station.

All four stations are air-conditioned in the crew's quarters and watch office. In addition, they have automatic hose washing and drying equipment and "selector call system" radio communication.

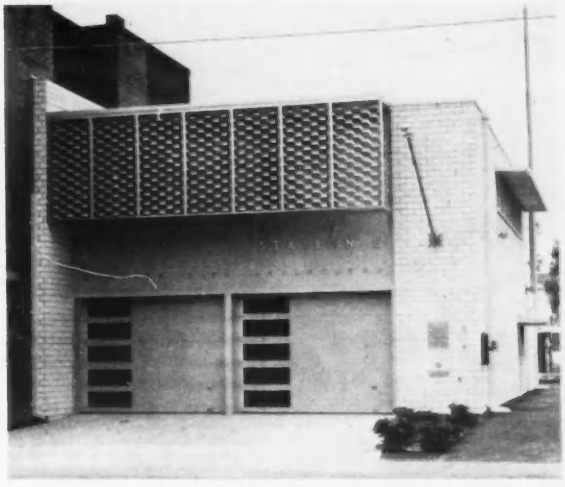
Back in 1954, FIREMEN magazine reported on the Houston Fire Department, describing its 10-year expansion program then in progress. The department protects an area of 165 square miles, and more than 600,000 population. There are approximately 900 fire fighters operating 28 engine companies, 10 ladder companies, 2 booster and 1 salvage companies, a fire boat and a crash truck.

The department operates in three divisions — Fire Suppression, Fire Alarm and Fire Prevention. The Fire Suppression Division has three sections, including an Operating (combat) Section headed by three deputy chiefs; the Training Section, headed by a district chief, and the Motor Repair Section.

The addition of these new fire stations shows that Chief Bullock's Fire Department is continuing the long-term expansion program to keep pace with the fire protection problems of a growing municipality with increasing population.



New No. 10 station built for $68,601.



No. 8 station also in downtown district is duplicate of No. 10.

. . . Bring in the New!

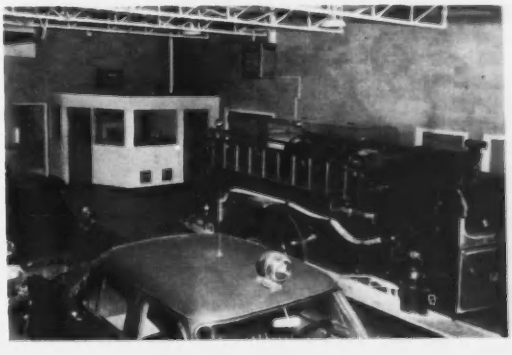
Houston, Texas, Fire Department modernizes with four new fire stations

The one-story No. 12 station is identical with the new station No. 3.

(*Left*) Kitchen and food bar in No. 8 and No. 10 stations are on second floor.

(*Right*) Dormitories in all new stations look like this.

(*Left*) Lounge room of No. 8 and No. 10 stations.



(*Right*) Typical apparatus room of new stations.

VISUAL NEEDS OF FIREMEN

by James R. Gregg, O.D., Los Angeles, California

YOUR efficiency, and indeed your very safety, often depends upon how well you see. You, the fire fighter, should know how to meet the "seeing needs" of your job, and how to keep your eyes working at peak performance.

Don't be fooled just because you have 20/20 vision. Sharp seeing is the most important visual skill you must have — fire fighting under all kinds of weather conditions, in dim interiors and bright outdoors; driving heavy trucks; handling a variety of equipment; doing all sorts of jobs around the station; studying and office work — few jobs place such demands on eyes. But it takes more than 20/20 vision!

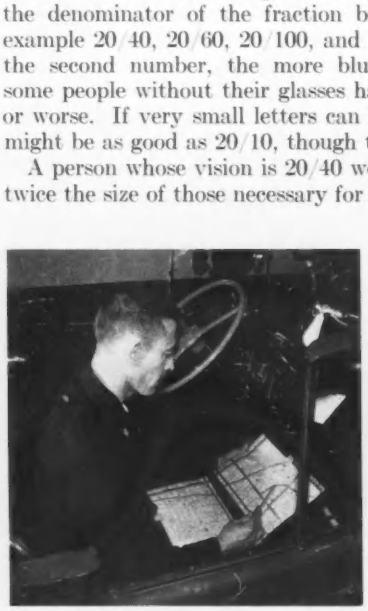
The term "20/20" refers to the size of letters which are readable 20 feet away; these letters are about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch high. Most eyes are able to read this lettering, though proper lenses may be necessary. If the letters must be made larger in order to be identified, the denominator of the fraction becomes larger; for example 20/40, 20/60, 20/100, and so on. The bigger the second number, the more blurred the vision — some people without their glasses have 20/1000 vision or worse. If very small letters can be seen, the vision might be as good as 20/10, though this is rare.

A person whose vision is 20/40 would require letters twice the size of those necessary for 20/20 vision, while 20/100 letters would be five times as large. This does not mean that 20/100 is five times worse than 20/20. It is worse, yes, but not in direct proportion to the size of the fraction.

How much worse 20/100 vision is than 20/20 vision depends upon other factors. This expression indicates only how clearly your eyes see at distance; it tells nothing of the indirect fields of vision, the eye muscle action, or the ability to see at a close point. Without these other vital qualities, clear vision is almost useless. Above all, it does not indicate how much "effort" or nervous energy is necessary to keep vision clear.

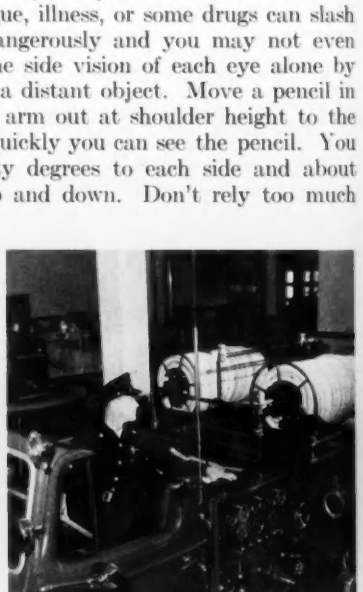
What if you had to battle a hot fire with your eyes confined to looking through a narrow tube? Your task would be difficult, if not impossible. Extensive side vision is essential to encompassing the whole scene.

You generally spot something first "out of the corner" of your eye, then aim your eyes to look at it. Loss of sleep, extreme fatigue, illness, or some drugs can slash your side vision dangerously and you may not even know it. Check the side vision of each eye alone by looking steadily at a distant object. Move a pencil in from the side with arm out at shoulder height to the side. Notice how quickly you can see the pencil. You should see it ninety degrees to each side and about seventy degrees up and down. Don't rely too much



One of the few near-seeing jobs in making a call is checking fireplug location. Such a job should not be given to a man who can't see close things well.

Handling equipment, though by all means must be done properly, does not require critical seeing even when near vision becomes difficult.



The driver of fire fighting apparatus needs sharp vision and good depth perception, particularly for backing into a tight spot. Large driving glasses should be used.

on any rough test of your eyesight; it's best to have a thorough examination to be sure your vision is perfect.

It takes two eyes working together perfectly to see fast and accurately. Though each eye alone can see clearly, the eye muscles must coordinate the two together to avoid sight errors. Your eyes should be able to follow moving targets easily and they should be able to turn in every direction. Try it and see. Keep your head still, hold a pencil in one hand and move it as far as you can reach. Your eyes should follow it without difficulty and you should not see double in any position.

Depth perception is particularly vital for your work at the scene of a fire. Climbing, moving quickly in close quarters, or walking over hazardous floor or ground areas, call for speedy judgment of size and distance. Anything that interferes with your two eyes seeing together, blurriness or eye muscle imbalance for example, can affect the ability to judge depth.

Take two short pencils and stand them on a table behind the edge of a book. Have someone move one ½-in. closer when you're not looking. Can you judge the right one four out of five times? Try it with one pencil only ¼-in. closer than the other. If your depth perception is poor, your eyes may need attention.

One of the most serious visual deficiencies for fire fighting is poor adaptation to darkness and light. You have experienced this effect in going from the bright outdoors into a darkened building. It takes good "dark adaptation" to see quickly. It works the other way, too. Once adjusted to the dark interior, the eyes are temporarily blinded when coming into bright light — this is light adaptation. The adjustment is made by a chemical action in the eye. Most eyes do it normally but some have "night blindness." Good health and normal diet are helpful to maintain the necessary chemical balance. Vitamin A is essential to the dark adjustment process, but ordinarily extra intake of vitamins are not necessary if diet is adequate, and there is no marked night blindness.

What can you do to keep your eyes working as they should? For one thing be on the lookout for any signs of faulty sight. Here are some things to look for: Any kind of blurry or double vision, headache from use of the eyes, greater difficulty seeing at night, eye fatigue or discomfort, red and watery eyes, errors in judgment of depth and location. Some of these may be improved by vision training, particularly if eye muscles are at fault. Eyes in some respects can be taught to see faster and better. If all your visual skills aren't up to par, seek professional advice before the problem becomes too intense.

But for many eyes, exercises alone won't solve the problems and glasses will be necessary. And choice of proper glasses is of great importance. Not only should they be designed to give the finest possible distance vision, but at the same time in no way interfere with seeing in every direction.

True, firemen generally have few problems with distance vision because they had to have good visual acuity to meet entrance requirements. But this may change with long service on the force. If glasses are necessary to sharpen distance vision, they should be made in safety lenses, to avoid breakage or even eye injury when doing rough work. As a matter of fact, safety lenses protect the eyes better than if no glasses are worn. Modern safety goggles, either plano or in prescription, can be made of plastic or heated glass.

Glasses are, of course, a nuisance when actually fighting a fire. They can easily cloud up and get in the way. Wearing face masks, carrying equipment, rescuing persons or property, and plenty of active movement are reasons enough for them not being used at a fire. They may have some value, however, such as protecting eyes from too much brightness.

Glare can be a problem when driving or riding the truck, working outdoors, or doing life saving and rescue work. If the eyes are particularly sensitive to light, then a moderate to dark tint should be chosen. A good quality green would be best for average brightness, the greys and browns are good for very high brightness. Wearing tinted lenses can aid dark adaptation. Seeing in a dark building would be faster if eyes had been protected from outdoor brightness by sunglasses.

On grey cloudy days, ordinary types of sunglasses are too dark. A very light tint should be used — the first shade of green for example, or some of the darker, flesh tones. But chances are that no single tint will be best for all the conditions of outdoor brightness or dullness in which the fireman must work.

The trouble with ordinary spectacles is that the frames sometimes interfere with side vision. The lens size should be more than ample to provide a maximum

Pumper gages are four to six feet from the ground and viewed from about 24 to 30 inches away. This can pose a real seeing problem if eyes cannot focus up close.

Accurate near vision is essential for many jobs around the station, such as reading the alarm system recording tape and checking alarm box location in the file.

In driving fire apparatus the driver sits much higher than he would in most vehicles. Note how the tillerman looks downward, necessitating particular eye movement and focus.

field of view, and the temples (the piece that fits over the ears) should be narrow and out of the way. Besides, frames are even better for the fireman if they conform to the facial shape by curving backwards slightly at the temples. Any obstruction of lenses or frame can add that fatal split second in seeing dangers. Large goggles are designed particularly to give plenty of seeing room.

No matter how good his vision was when he entered the fire service, every fireman begins to experience some difficulties with his "near vision" sometime around the age of 45 to 50. This is due to the natural loss of the eye's ability to focus for near objects. It's part of the aging process and there is no way to prevent it. The same process may affect distance vision of some eyes, depending upon whether or not they were farsighted in the earlier years, and upon how farsighted they were.

The need for near vision depends upon job assignments. Since firemen are trained to do a wide variety of jobs, nearly all will require good near vision at one time or another. This means that the question will have to be whether to wear bifocals or single vision lenses (reading glasses).

The choice of a prescription for spectacles depends upon the precise occupational needs. If the near work is confined to a 16- to 18-in. distance from the eyes, as in ordinary reading, a single vision lens may do very well. It will, of course, blur distance seeing since the focus power of this lens is designed to help the eyes see up close. But this may not matter on many jobs around the station such as making out reports, checking maps, or general office work.

Building inspection may involve a variety of demands on near vision, and sometimes in difficult-to-see areas. Though none of the close work may be critical, nor prolonged, bifocals may be the best solution. This is true whether or not any correction is required for distance seeing. Bifocals are simply more convenient; it is possible to see at both distance and near without having to remove the glasses, as would be the case with "reading glasses." There is no reason glasses must be worn all the time simply because they are bifocals. That would be necessary only if the distance portion of the lens incorporated some significant correction.

Bifocals will be best for work around the station. Such jobs as checking and repairing equipment, some desk work, handling the alarm system and dispatching duty and training course study may be done more conveniently with dual focus lenses. In some instances, as the bifocal lens must be increased in power, a trifocal lens may be needed in order to provide clear vision at an arm's length distance. Reading wall maps, checking gages, and some mechanical and repair work require vision at 24 to 36 inches. This generally can't be done with a bifocal strong enough for reading, once the first bifocal stage has passed. Besides, some of those tasks are at eye level and would require annoying head tilt to see through the bifocal.

But bifocals are generally a handicap when working in unfamiliar territory. The bifocal may be too high for easy walking and may hinder your scrambling around at the scene of a fire or emergency call, unless it is made particularly low in the spectacles to prevent this difficulty. There are similar objections to using bifocals for driving and maneuvering vehicles. (The driver sits high in most fire fighting rigs and would use the bifocal in looking down toward the street. This is not true in a passenger car.)

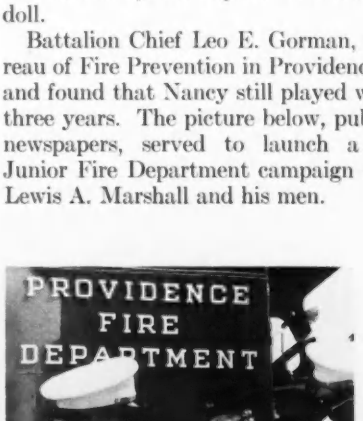
A pump operator may need a near vision correction to read dials and gages. On responding to a call he may also have to read maps and route cards. Otherwise, bifocals have little if any use once the scene of action has been reached.

Your doctor will appreciate knowing about your own habits and working conditions. If you provide that extra information, you can be sure your vision will be corrected for maximum comfort, efficiency and safety on your job.

"Sparky" Owner Grows Up

SOME readers of FIREMEN magazine may recall when the above picture was published in 1956. The baby, Nancy Fratus, was the first child born during Fire Prevention Week of that year and the Providence, Rhode Island, Fire Department awarded her the Sparky doll.

Battalion Chief Leo E. Gorman, who heads the Bureau of Fire Prevention in Providence, recently checked and found that Nancy still played with "Sparky" after three years. The picture below, published in the city's newspapers, served to launch a city-wide Sparky Junior Fire Department campaign sponsored by Chief Lewis A. Marshall and his men.



Three-year-old Nancy Fratus talks to Chief Marshall (left) who holds the soiled but durable Sparky doll given to Nancy on the day of her birth. At right is Battalion Chief Gorman.

Yuma, Arizona's new modern, fully air-conditioned Fire Station No. 1.

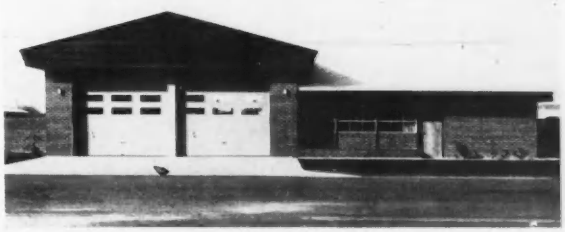
Recent Improvements in Yuma, Arizona

DURING the past year, the fire department of Yuma, Arizona, headed by Chief Bernard Raebel, has been enjoying some new facilities provided through a modernization program. Included are a new No. 1 fire station, a four-story drill tower, and a testing pit for fire department pumpers.

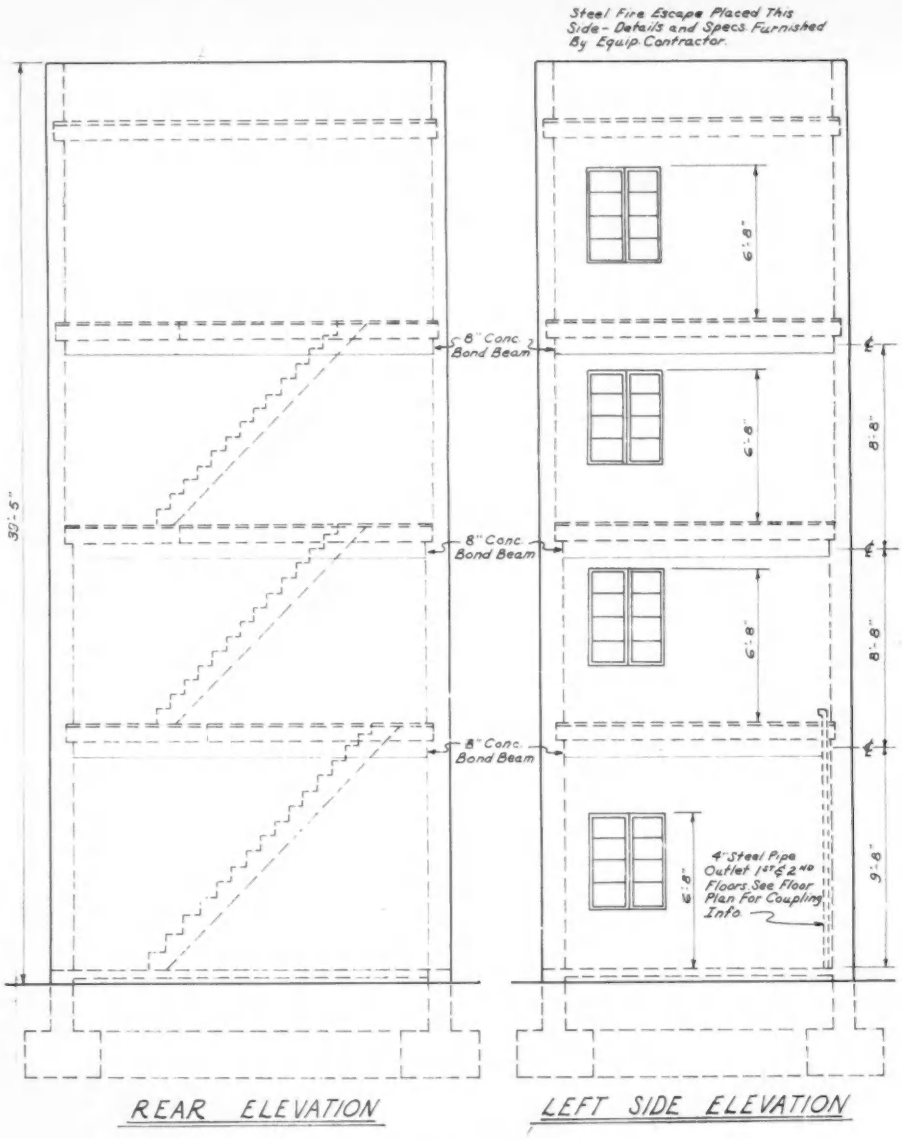
Chief Raebel's fire department protects a city of 22,000 population. There are three engine companies and a ladder company operating out of three stations. The 38-man paid fire department has three fire alarm operators, two fire inspectors, an alarm technician and two chief officers in addition to the fire fighters. Yuma is primarily a shipping and packing center for the surrounding agricultural area. Nearby also is a Marine Corps air base and a U. S. Army test station. The city is also popular with tourists during the winter.

The new No. 1 fire station was built for $135,000. Designed by the architectural firm of Edward L. Verney & Associates of Phoenix, the station features cement block and reinforced concrete on the exterior and wood frame and plastic construction in the interior. There is an apparatus room, a general office, an alarm room, an office for the chief, the duty chief and assistant chief, a kitchen, a "ready room," dormitory, locker and lavatory facilities, a study room, general storage facilities, a maintenance shop and an alarm technician shop. Floors of the living area feature asphalt tile and ceramic tile is used in the locker room and lavatory.

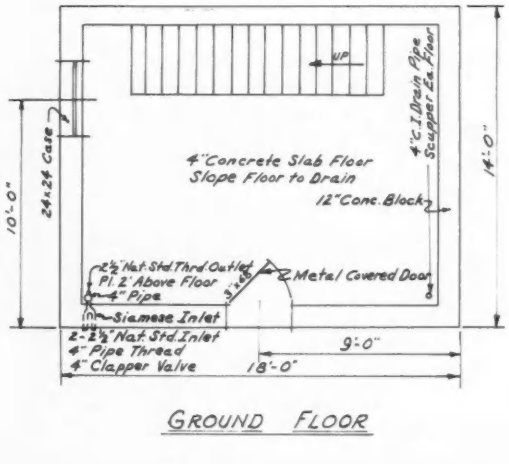
(*Continued on page 21*)

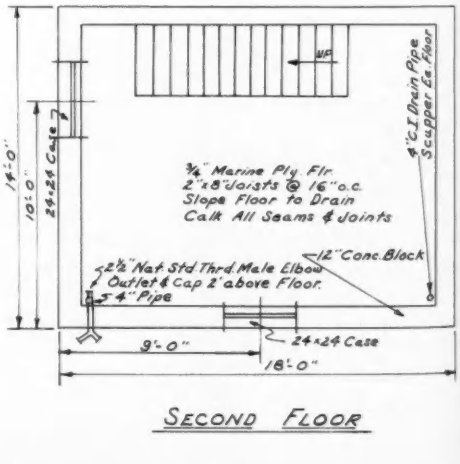


(Above) Fire Station No. 3 in Yuma, Arizona. (Bottom) Twenty-bed dormitory of new No. 1 station.

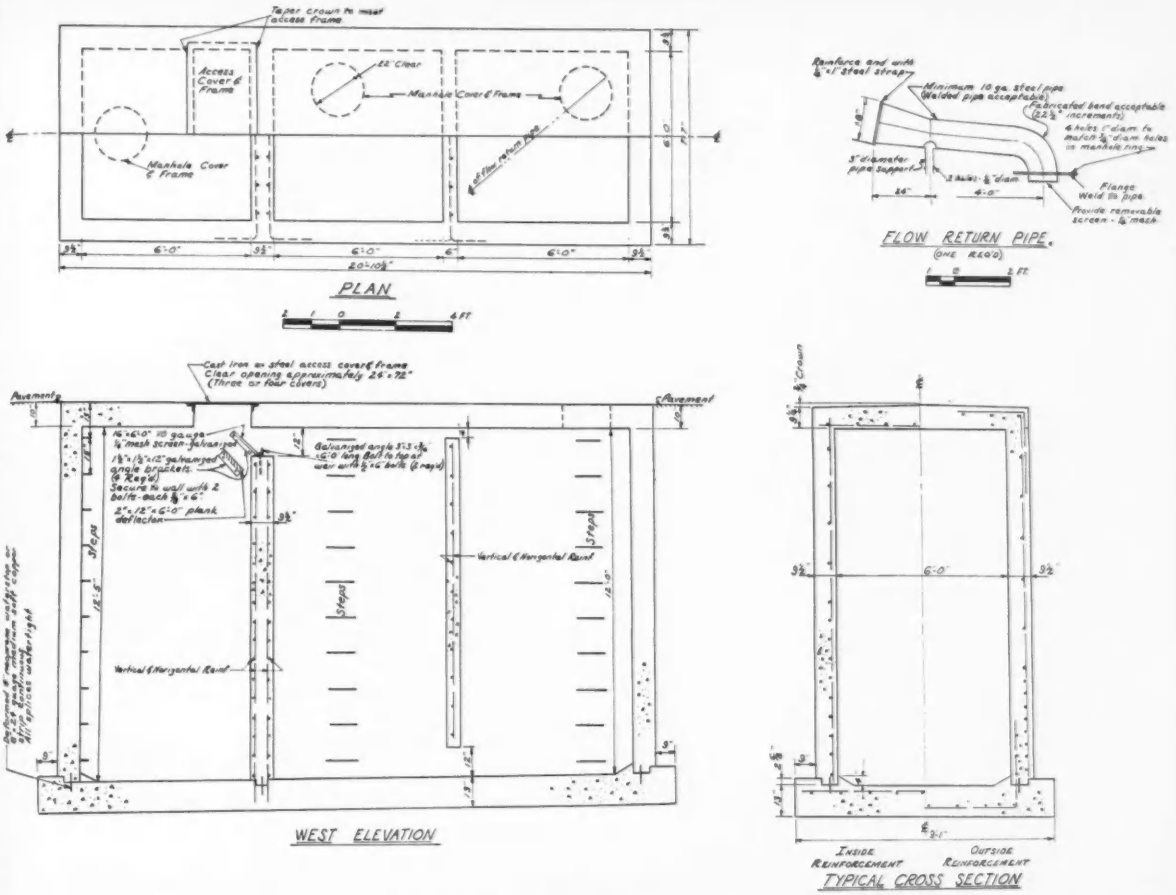


The sketches on this page show some of the construction details of the drill tower in Yuma, Arizona. Note sprinkler and standpipe installations shown in ground and second floor sketches. Scuppers and drain pipes are also on each floor. On the following page are detailed sketches of the pumper test pit also installed by the fire department.




W.P.
4" C.I. Drain Pipe Scupper Ea. Floor
14'-0"
10'-0"
24x24 Case
⅜" Marine Ply. Flr. 2"x8" Joists @ 16" o.c. Slope Floor to Drain Calk All Seams & Joints
12" Conc. Block
2½" Nat. Std. Thrd. Male Elbow Outlet & Cap 2' above Floor.
4" Pipe
9'-0"
24x24 Case
18'-0"
SECOND FLOOR

2 0 4 FT.



Yuma, Arizona, now uses this test pit for its pumpers. A number of fire departments have written to NFPA asking for construction details on such pits. While not all details are included in the above sketches, sufficient information is presented from which contractors could develop equally satisfactory pits.

(Continued from page 19)

The apparatus room holds six pieces of apparatus. The maintenance shop is well equipped with the necessary tools, cutting and welding facilities and work benches, since the fire department does all of the maintenance work on its apparatus.

The dormitory accommodates 20 beds and the entire building is heated by forced air and cooled by refrigeration.

The drill tower, built for $7,858, is made of cement block with an interior stairway and standpipes. Measuring 14 by 18 feet, it is four stories high with two casement windows on each floor. The bottom floor is used as a smoke room and for drilling with breathing apparatus.

Also included in the new construction was the pumper test pit which was built according to the recommendations in NBFU Bulletin 277 except that the baffle was dropped four inches from the top to allow air to escape from the first compartment. Chief Raebel reports that the pit has been used extensively ever since with very good results. Its total construction cost was $3,977. It provides an excellent means for pumper acceptance tests as well as giving pumper operators a practical site for training in drafting, hose line supply and other evolutions.

New Pumpers in L. A. County

Shown climbing a 51 per cent grade is one of two new four-wheel drive pumpers recently delivered to the Los Angeles County, California, Fire Department. In specified road tests it was required to negotiate a 45 per cent grade. The new pumpers have 252 hp. Hall-Scott engines, 600-gallon booster tanks, 750 gpm pumps, road pumps and carry 2,000 ft. of 1½-in. hose and 800 ft. of 1-in. hose. Chief Keith E. Klinger's county fire department now has four of these four-wheel drive pumpers operating in strategic watershed areas. (*Los Angeles County Fire Department photo.*)

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New Booklet on Pumper Tests

THE sixth edition of the well-known booklet, "Fire Department Pumper Tests and Fire Stream Tables" was published in July by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The booklet was prepared especially for fire department officials and others who want to determine the condition of pumpers. It also contains some useful information on testing the capacity of new pumpers for acceptance by municipalities.

The 40-page, 4½-in. by 6½-in. paperbound publication has an introduction covering its history and also the history of the methods of testing fire department apparatus. The second chapter covers the listing of fire department pumpers and the types of tests used by the NBFU in the listing procedure. Other chapters cover: testing procedure; discussion of lift; practical rules for obtaining good fire stream; and friction loss factors. A number of useful tables are included in the back of the book covering friction loss, nozzle discharge and other information important to the fire fighter.

Single copies of the booklet will be sent on request to fire department chief officers and to officers of companies and pump operators. Other copies at a nominal price may be obtained from the National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York 38, New York; at 222 West Adams Street, Chicago 6, Illinois; and 465 California Street, San Francisco 4, California.

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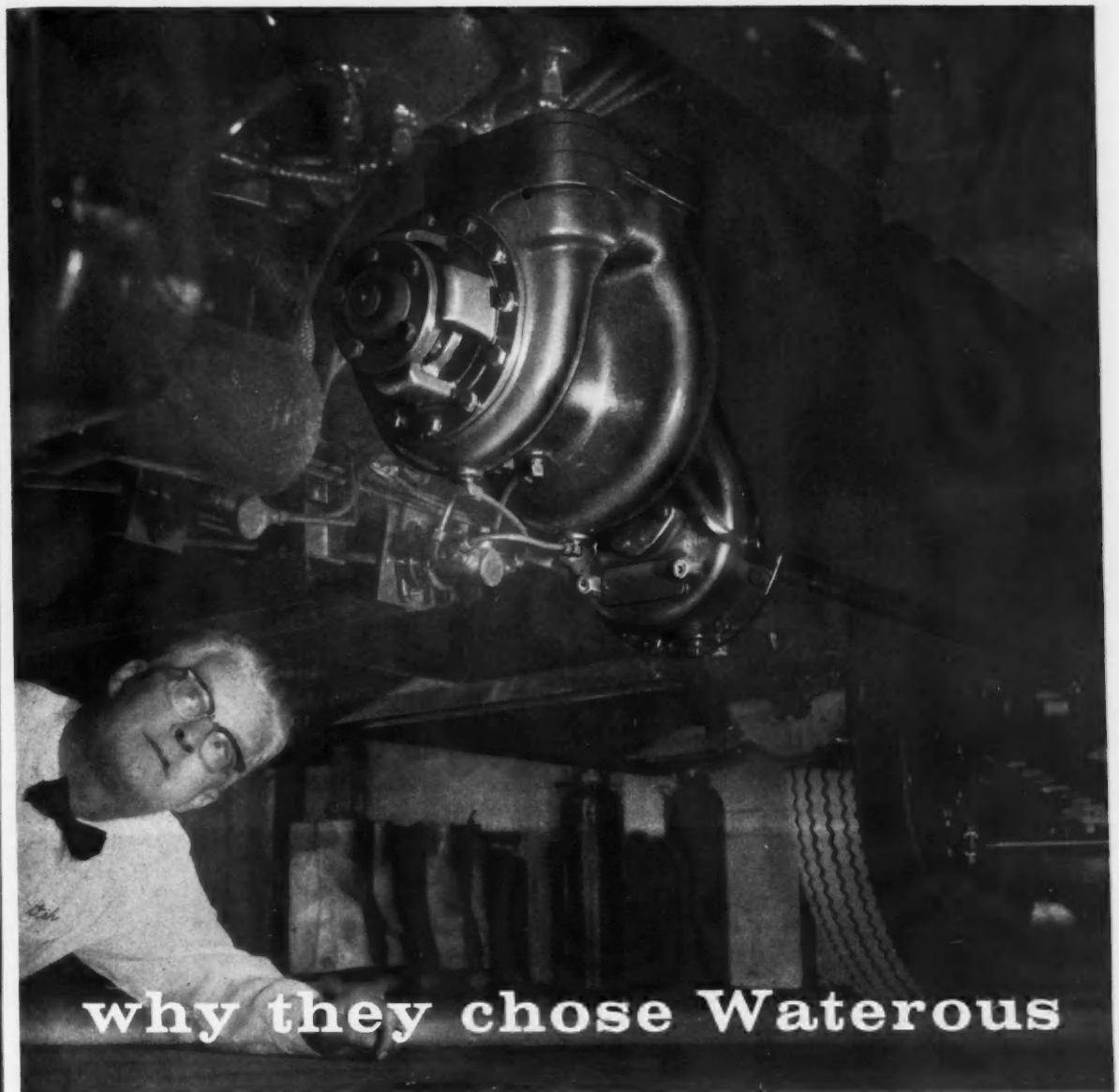

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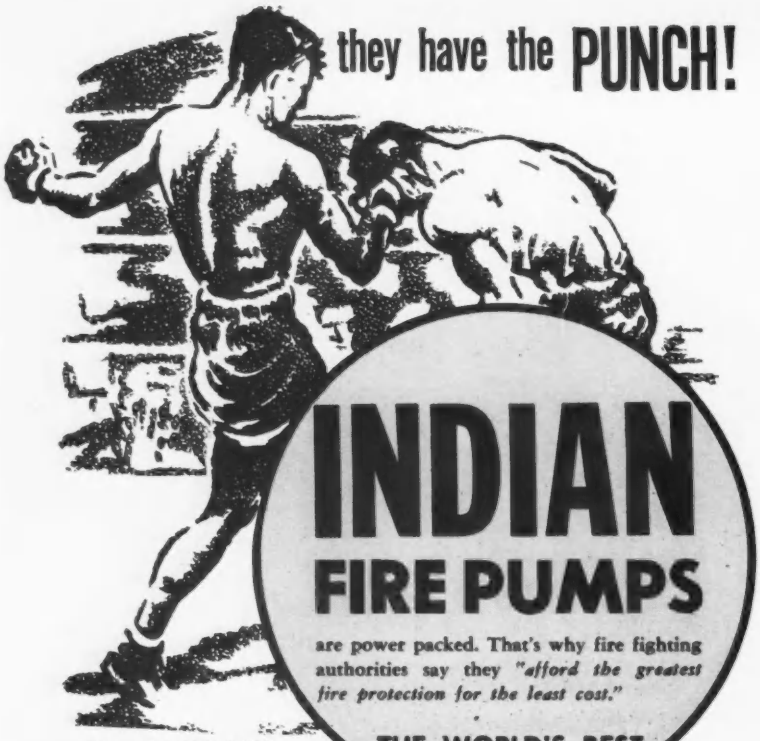

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JOHN W. O'HEARN, retired chief of the Watertown, Massachusetts, Fire Department, died last month. For thirty-seven years he had served as Secretary-Treasurer of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs and in that position, he made many friends throughout the fire service of New England and many other states. His fire department service began sixty-four years ago. He joined the Watertown Fire Department as a call fireman in 1895. In 1912 he was appointed chief and served in that office continually until he was retired in 1944. In 1922 he became Secretary-Treasurer of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs and was re-elected annually until this year.

"WHY?"

MANY fire departments ought to be interested in a powerful, new fire prevention film which was shown during the recent NFPA annual meeting. Titled "Why?", it is a 15-minute motion picture film with sound and color showing last year's tragic school fire in Chicago. The photographer was on one of the first pieces of apparatus to respond to the fire.

The film shows actual fire fighting and rescue during those few short minutes of tragedy. Well narrated, it provides a strong fire prevention message which should be extremely important for parent-teacher organizations and other civic groups.

The film is available through purchase only. For detailed information write to Fire Prevention Through Films, 465 Stuart Street, Boston 16, Massachusetts.

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All-"Dacron" double jacket. There's no need now for costly drying equipment, or for stand-by hose. New all-"Dacron" Porter Deluxe Bonded Hose makes drying operations obsolete, and lasts many times longer under severe dragging and scuffing than other types of double-jacket fire hose.

This new hose, with a rubber bond between the two jackets of DuPont "Dacron" polyester fiber, can be dragged many miles without fraying, and can be left wet on the truck without fear of mildew. No drying, no spare hose needed. And the new Porter all-"Dacron" hose gives more than five times the wear of cotton-jacket hose.

A rubber-bonded double jacket of "Dacron" all around is the secret behind the new mildew-proof Porter Deluxe Bonded Fire Hose.

Get all the facts on this remarkable new money-saving fire hose. Ask your Thermoid distributor, or write *Thermoid Division, H. K. Porter Company, Inc., Tacony & Comly Sts., Philadelphia 24, Pa.*

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**750 Gallon, 3-stage, Class A Underwriter performance plus 60 gpm at 850 psi for high pressure fog.

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New "Imperial" Nozzles by Akron

JOSEPH FISHELSON, president of Akron Brass Company of Wooster, Ohio, announces a new line of "Imperial Deluge" nozzles. Available in 500, 1000 and 2500 gpm capacities, these nozzles are made of the new "Pyrolite" metal alloy developed for use in rockets at Cape Canaveral. According to Mr. Fishelson, this metal has one-third of the weight of brass and twice the strength, is non-corrosive and is harder than steel.

The nozzles provide constant gallonage at all settings from straight stream to wide angle fog. Thus, the pump gages remain steady regardless of the stream pattern used. At full discharge at high pressures the nozzles may be controlled by one finger. They are designed so that the flow cannot be completely shut off at the nozzle. This has been done to prevent bursting hose and damaging equipment which frequently has happened when heavy stream nozzles were suddenly shut off by a man seeking to change the stream pattern.

The new nozzles were first publicly demonstrated at the Michigan State Fire College in June and will be on display at the IAFC Convention in Grand Rapids. The "Pyrolite" metal when unplated has a dark ebony color which should appeal to many chiefs as a relief from an excess of chrome that has so largely taken over as a finish for fire appliances. Mr. Fishelson reports that although the new material is somewhat more costly than the conventional softer brass alloy, the nozzles will be made available to the fire service at no increase in price. He reports that Akron Brass Company has invested $140,000 in nozzle engineering and research to provide equipment having the performance that the fire service has been asking for.

Joseph Fishelson (*right*) shows new Akron "Imperial Deluge" nozzle to Francis Hartman (*left*), Supervisor of Firemanship Training in Michigan, at the Michigan State Fire College.

Plan to attend the
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The patented, electrically operated Circul-Air hose dryer circulates pre-warmed fresh air through loosely coiled hose at the rate of 5 to 6 air changes per minute. No other drying method is so fast — so economical — so easy to use. The preferred dryer in over 5,000 leading Fire Departments.

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PORTO-RAK *MOBILE* HOSE STORAGE AND LOADING UNIT

Saves valuable space. Holds 1,800 ft. of 2½" hose — proportionately more of 1½" — in an 8 ft. space (when loading table is detached). Roll it right up to the truck for reloading — out of the way when not in use. Equipped with locking fiber-wheeled casters.

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THE CIRCUL-AIR CORPORATION 575 EAST MILWAUKEE DETROIT 2, MICHIGAN

Fire Department Response Group

(*Continued from page 10*)

duty with the apparatus this will provide the required minimum manning of 4 men where on-duty tours average a nominal 48 to 56 hours per week.

Each fire company must have an officer on duty at all times. This normally requires at least 4 officers for each company. These men are working foremen.

At least one captain is required as company commander with enough junior officers to cover all tours of duty. This means that the A and B platoons of each group should each have two company officers.

A common arrangement is when a captain is on duty in charge of one company, a lieutenant (or junior captain, or sergeant) is in charge of another company in the same station or unit. This provides a chain of command within companies working together.

Other Types of Companies

Where a company operates more than one piece of apparatus, not less than one, and preferably two, additional men should be added to the minimum on-duty strength of the company.

In some fire departments there are companies other than the standard engine and ladder or "truck" companies. Questions may be asked as to how these may fit into the basic response group. For example, some fire departments have a combination pumper-ladder truck meaning a truck carrying full equipment of both engine and ladder companies. It is pretty well agreed in the fire service that this type of combination cannot simultaneously do the job of separate engine and ladder companies. Accordingly, if used as part of the response group a decision must be made as to how the company manning the pumper-ladder truck will operate. Generally, it should be manned and operated as a ladder company (one which carries some additional equipment). Other fire departments have "squad" companies carrying a variety of emergency equipment. In areas where no long ladders are needed the squad company may substitute for a ladder company in doing the truck work in the response group. In other cases the squad company mans a pumping engine and may be assigned to engine company duties in the response group. Where special types of apparatus are not fully manned or equipped for regular engine or ladder company service, these are supernumerary auxiliaries which cannot be considered as part of the basic response group.

CHIEF Robert A. Bogan, Sr., of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died at his home on June 29. He had been fire chief for more than 40 years and his fire fighting career covered nearly 50 years.

Bob Bogan was a charter member of the NFPA Firemen's Training Committee (now the Committee on Fire Service Training), former president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and a member of other fire service and civic organizations.

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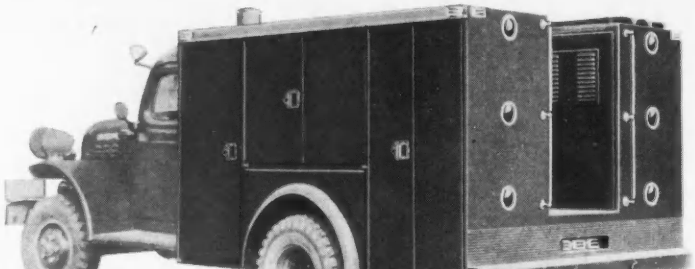

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Double Strength FOAM liquid helps you improve and economize your departmental training too. The very small proportion required to produce this extinguishing agent permits training under actual fire conditions at negligible cost.

For further facts on Rockwood Double Strength FOAM, tested and listed by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., send coupon today.

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Dates to Remember

Arizona: The Seventh Annual Arizona State Fire Training School will be held in Phoenix, October 15–17 at the Phoenix College. Write to Chief Jake Siken, Training Director, 49 South 1st Street, Phoenix, for information.

Arkansas: Regional fire schools will be held in Marianna, September 14–24; Harrison, September 28–October 8; and Blytheville, October 12–22. Write to Whit Murphy, Registrar, Arkansas State Fire College, Stated Education Building, Little Rock.

Indiana: The Second Annual Fire Inspectors' Course will be held at Purdue University, October 27–29. Write to Professor Shelby Gallien, Director, Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, Lafayette.

Iowa: A seminar in industrial fire safety will be held at Iowa State College in Ames, September 22–25. For details write to Keith Royer, Supervisor, Firemanship Training, 110 Marston Hall, Iowa State College, Ames.

Kansas: The 30th Annual Kansas Fire School will be held in Lawrence, October 19–22. For further information, write to Clyde A. Babb, Director, Kansas Fire School, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Michigan: The Tenth Annual Michigan Fire Inspectors' Conference is scheduled for September 22–25 at the Michigan State University Kellogg Center in East Lansing. During this time the annual meeting of the Michigan Fire Inspectors' Society will be held. For further details write to Arthur P. Patriarche, Secretary, Michigan Fire Inspectors' Society, 716 Ann Street, East Lansing.

Missouri: The West Central Missouri Firemen's Conference is scheduled for October 4 in Gladstone. For more information, write to William Bush Walden, Administrative Assistant in Charge of Firemanship Training, University of Missouri, Building T–11, Room 101, Columbia.

New Hampshire: A fire school sponsored by the Fire Chiefs' Club of New Hampshire will be held at the Meadowood Fire Department Training Center in Fitzwilliam, September 19–20. For details write to Captain Robert Callahan, Fire Department Headquarters, Keene.

New Mexico: Carlsbad will be host to the New Mexico State Firemen's Association Convention, September 21–23. For details, write to Chief Ira J. Stockwell, Fire Station No. 1, Carlsbad.

Ohio: Regional fire schools will be held in Coshocton, October 3–4 and Martins Ferry, October 11 and 18. For information write to Byrl R. Shoemaker, Supervisor, Trade and Industrial Education Service, 220 South Parsons Avenue, Columbus 15.

Ontario: The following courses will be given at the 1959 Fire College in Gravenhurst: Fire Department Instructors, September 14–18; Simcoe District Fire School, September 21–25; and Muskoka District Regional School, October 5–9. Write to D. E. Barrett, Director, Ontario Fire College, P.O. Box 830, Gravenhurst.

Pennsylvania: A fire department pump school is scheduled for October 19. Special training courses will be given in ladder, rescue and salvage, September 28 and in advanced fire fighting, October 26. Write to Art Espey, Director, Pennsylvania State Firemen's Training School, Box 631, Lewistown.

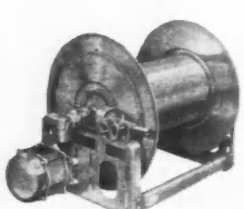
South Carolina: A regional fire school will be held in Folly Beach, October 12–16. Write to H. B. Wells, Instructor, Fire Fighter Training, 1539 Harrington Street, Newberry.

Wisconsin: Regional Advanced Fire Protection Schools will be held in Sheboygan, September 24–25; and Waupaca, October 1–3. For information write to William E. Clark, Supervisor of Fire Service Training, 14 North Carroll Street, Madison 3.

U.S. Air Force O-118
Photo courtesy American-LaFrance

HANNAY reels used on Air Force fire fighting units

Hannay reels in specially designed cabinet installation swing out for fast operation . . . provide Air Force fire fighting teams with water and chemicals *at the nozzle* for instant response. For your equipment, *specify* hose reels designed and built by active firemen . . . insist on HANNAY.



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Keep Matches Away from Young Children!
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Where Did Your Match Go?
Check One
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National Fire Prevention Week is October 4 to 10, 1959. It takes 30 to 35 days to process orders. All orders received before the first day of September can be shipped to arrive before October 4th, but DON'T DELAY. Order today for use in advance of the National Fire prevention Week Activities.

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and advertise with
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Match Books
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Each case of match books has in it suggested distribution plans to help you reach many thousands with your message.

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Please ship us _____ cases of SPARKY Match Books with our imprint on the front cover, as indicated below:

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Add local or state sales and use taxes. Prices include prepaid freight and Federal Excise Tax.

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Please attach your letterhead. If shipment is to an address other than that shown above, indicate on your letterhead the address to which shipment should be sent. Thank you.

USE THIS ORDER FORM...TODAY!

INSPECTIONS

in Bainbridge, New York

How a volunteer fire department developed a home inspection program for last year's Fire Prevention Week.

by Charles O'Connor, Bainbridge Fire Department

IN JUNE, 1958, Averill Harriman, then Governor of New York State, invited New York State Fire Chiefs to attend a conference in Albany. A need for home fire safety inspections was emphasized at this conference and the message was carried home to many fire departments. At the August meeting of the Bainbridge Fire Department, Fire Chief Reno Smith appointed a committee consisting of Captain Douglas Smith, Lt. Hugh Kearney and the author to undertake the task of planning and supervising a home fire safety inspection program and other activities to coincide with National Fire Prevention Week in October.

Annually, the Bainbridge Fire Department has sponsored fire safety publicity and fire fighting demonstrations in Fire Prevention Week. In October, 1955, an attempt was made to conduct a Home Inspection Program. The effort was duly publicized and Fire District residents were urged to call the fire department and schedule an "Inspection." Some 20 to 25 residents responded. The results were not very gratifying considering the 600 to 700 homes in the Fire District. During October, 1956 and 1957, the home inspection subject was discussed and dropped as it was generally conceded that the public was not sufficiently interested.

Following the 1958 Fire Chiefs' Conference in Albany, the Bainbridge Fire Department voted to conduct a home fire safety inspection throughout the Fire District. It was agreed that, to be successful, the inspection would have to be carried to the residents rather than attempt a "you call us" type of inspection as was done in 1955.

In sizing up the problem, the committee decided that inspections should be concentrated on home electrical systems, heating plants and the accumulation of flammable rubbish. This confined the inspection for the most part to cellars. We felt that a more receptive welcome might result with the residents knowing we were interested primarily in the cellars. There being no legal means to force a home fire safety inspection on an unwanting public, we indoctrinated the fire department with a tactful "sales approach." This phase of the program was fruitful, for later, during the inspections, many firemen succeeded in talking their way into homes that occupants apparently preferred not to have inspected.

Our plans were made public through four newspapers late in August. The impact of the impending inspection was astounding. Bainbridge Fire District residents made their own preliminary inspections, and fire hazards were corrected or removed in many cases. The fire chief was deluged with telephone calls and on the street — queries: What? When? Why? Do you really mean it?

One rubbish disposal concern reported removing "several years" accumulation of ashes from a cellar. A church made a thorough house-cleaning and removed four truckloads (a 2½-ton stake body truck) of flammables.

The publicity campaign was continued and intensified with fire safety hints and statistics in the local weekly newspaper and three daily newspapers which circulate in the Bainbridge area. These newspapers were most cooperative.

The inspection was scheduled to be held Monday through Friday evenings, October 6 through 11. Each member of the fire department received a letter, in late September, prepared by the Fire Prevention Committee. The twofold purpose of letter was to alert the firemen for the inspection and to prepare his "Missus" for the many time-consuming activities scheduled for October.

(*Continued on page 35*)

FYRUMBRELLA enables men to stay right up there—no need to be "run out" by roaring heat! No more lurking behind pieces of metal, bed springs, doors, wetted down tarps or blankets.

● Five feet square, when open, the aluminized surface deflects 95% of the radiant heat. The tough **GLASS** cloth construction makes it non-burnable. Three men with 2½" lines and any type nozzles may work through the hose port. Adequate forward vision is provided by eye ports on each side. The **FYRUMBRELLA**, weight only 9½ lbs., folds compactly for easy storage in apparatus compartments. The **FYRUMBRELLA** combines an aluminized reflective surface on strong, non-burnable glass cloth backed by a coating of neoprene for greater strength. Hardware is of a rugged steel construction to withstand raps and bumps. Write for complete information on Fyrumbrella, other Fyrepel Fire Fighting Equipment and Heat Protective Clothing.

FYREPEL PRODUCTS, INC.
Dept. A Box 503 Newark, Ohio

Perhaps it seems strange that such a letter was considered, so let's take a look at the Fall (1958) calendar for the Bainbridge Fire Department:

1. Conduct and supervise fire drills at the Bainbridge Central School. This usually amounts to from four to six drills during September and October.
2. Conduct a fire safety inspection of the entire Bainbridge Central School plant.
3. Conduct a fire safety inspection of the Bainbridge business district.
4. Provide "Sparky" coloring books for the first 5 grades of the school and arrange with school officials, a program to utilize this material during Fire Prevention Week.
5. Present a fire prevention program to the local P.T.A.
6. Hold regular monthly fire drills.
7. As a finale to Fire Prevention Week, prepare and conduct a Firemen's Field Day, involving neighboring fire departments, demonstrating fire fighting apparatus and techniques. (This involved several evening or Saturday work sessions to prepare.)

Obviously, many of our firemen were quite busy those two months which probably was a burden for their families.

So, last year the fire alarm siren was sounded at 7 P.M. on Monday through Friday during Fire Prevention Week, to announce that the inspection teams were leaving the fire station and to remind firemen that the inspections were in progress.

Average attendance during the five-day inspection program was 16 men per day, or approximately one-third of the department. This was below the attendance anticipated by the Fire Prevention Committee. However, the department numbers about 50 men and several work at night, or have wives who work, and there were conflicting engagements which kept other firemen away. This is probably typical of any volunteer organization.

An inspection team consisted of two men and the teams were divided into three groups. One group covered the north side of the Village, a second group covered the south side of the Village and a third group covered the rural portion of the Fire District. A chief, or assistant chief headed each group and kept track of the area covered each night.

Duplicate inspection reports were filled out for each home. The fire department retained a copy and the occupant received a copy.

(*Continued on page 36*)

Onan NEWS REPORT

Department uses two Onan plants to fight fires, and hurricanes, too!

The 1,500-watt portable Onan plant mounted on the rig above is strictly a fire-fighting tool for the Oxford, North Carolina department. Quickly detachable from the truck mount, it can be carried right up to the fire site to operate floodlights and tools.

The Onan 10,000-watt standby plant below helps fight fires and other disasters. In addition to assuring power for police radio, headquarters lighting, and the air-compressor fire signal system, it also serves the local Civil Defense organization, guaranteeing radio communications when a hurricane or other disaster strikes the community.

10KW PLANT HANDLES ALL ESSENTIAL NEEDS

Radio, air compressor and lights are on the emergency circuit. A flip of the switch starts the plant. Onan also supplies automatic start-stop transfer controls for permanent installations where personnel are not always on duty.

Call the Onan distributor listed in your phone book or write for information

D. W. ONAN & SONS INC.

ELECTRIC PLANTS GENERATORS ENGINES ENGINE-COMPRESSORS
2807 University Avenue S.E. • Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Onan ELECTRIC PLANTS

CAIRNS

PLASTIC

FIRE HELMETS

The "CLIFTON"
(No. 900 – Regulation)

Also offered in The "CAVALIER"
(No. 725 – Drop Brim with regulation front)

Regulation 8-comb style, or drop brim style with standard front; made of FLINT-FLEX, the rugged plastic that is light, tough, flexible and non-conducting; has the new FORMABLE HEADBAND that can be molded to your own particular head shape; complete protection at moderate cost. Other CAIRNS HELMETS in leather and aluminum.

Write for Catalog 360

CAIRNS & BRO., Inc. — Allwood, Clifton, N. J.

This **is *your* LIGHT!**

The Flashball . . .

designed for the Volunteer Firefighter — combines *every protection need* with economy.

The ***FLASHBALL*** is identical in appearance to the famous FEDERAL FIREBALL.

Compact, lightweight, but ***powerful!***

Projects an intense beam of light straight ahead — where needed!

Mounts on dashboard or roof, magnetically — instantly!

Plugs into cigar lighter.

FLASHBALL weighs less than one pound, has flasher built right into light.

Price **$22.50.** Choice of red, blue or amber.

"***FLASHBALL,*** the light that gets your car ***safely*** to the scene of emergency!"

Write FEDERAL today for Bulletin #355.

FEDERAL SIGN and SIGNAL Corporation

13617 South Western Avenue, Blue Island, Illinois

(*Continued from page 35*)

The report noted the type of building, type of fire hazards noted, and recommendations for correction.

In a few cases involving rental properties with serious fire hazards, the owner was notified and recommendations were made to have them corrected. When the inspection was completed, the reports were totaled as follows:

Total inspections completed	385
Homes with no visible fire hazards	216
Homes with electrical type fire hazards	127
Homes with heating plant fire hazards	33
Homes with rubbish fire hazards	16

One means of measuring the result of your program is to observe the amount of house cleaning and the number of fire hazards corrected or removed recently. One item particularly conspicuous during our inspection was the abundance of shiny new, proper-sized electrical fuses in many homes.

Our home inspection program was a lot of work. Many, many hours of planning, preparation and inspection were put forth by the fire department. We know that many fire hazards were removed or corrected. We hope that this will have a proportionate effect on the incidence of home fires in the Bainbridge Fire District. If it does, perhaps someone will be spared the costly loss of property, the pain of burns, or the grief of a loved one dead from fire. The personal satisfaction that we at least tried to stop fires and perhaps save a home or a life is one reward we have for our time spent.

Exclusive Offer to Firemen and Retired Firemen ONLY!

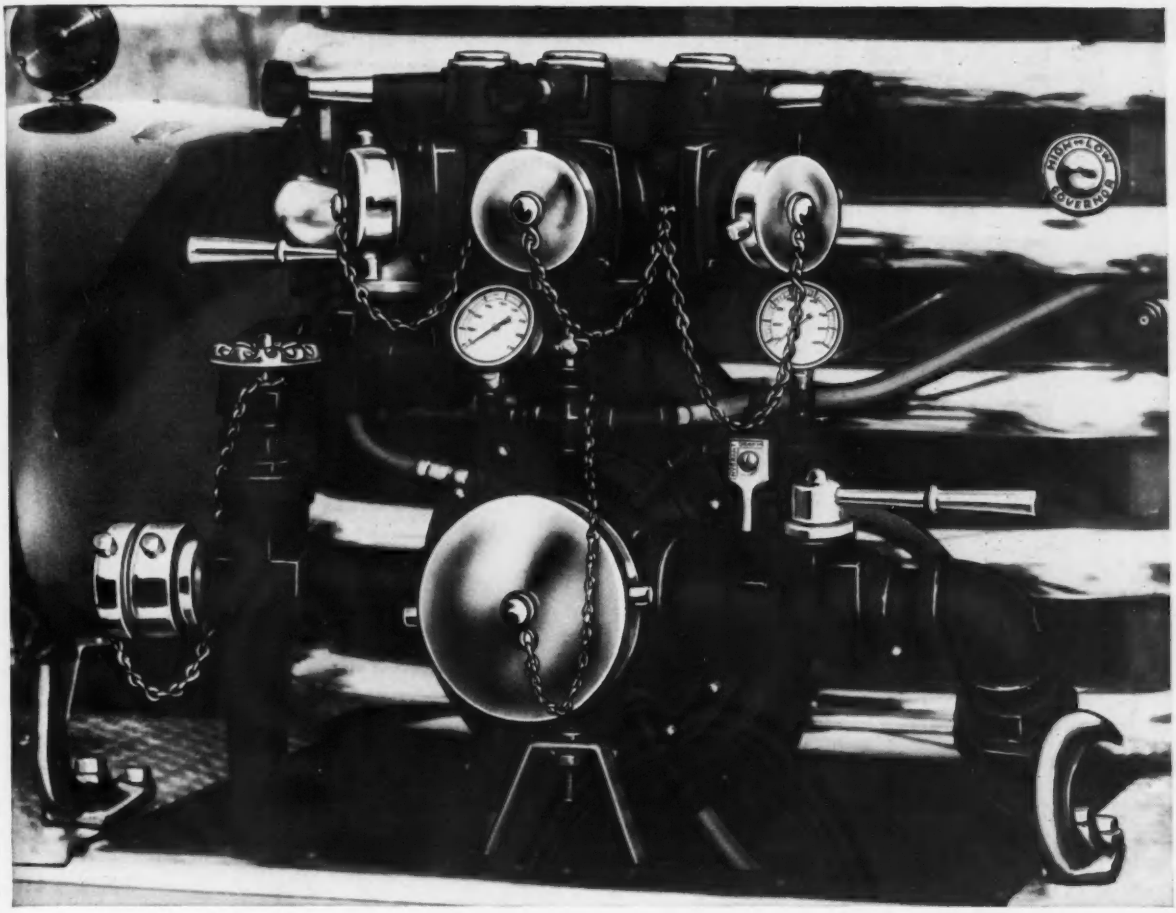
ADD MATERIALLY TO YOUR INCOME

To turn your "off hours" into "income hours," America's original designer and pioneer manufacturer of revolutionary automotive spray-wash system now offers this factory-directed, SPARE-TIME sales opportunity. No sales experience necessary — simple demonstration can sell this equipment!

Your very first sale offers a high profit on this "must" item for service stations, garages, motor-truck fleets, car dealers, etc. Sales leads furnished from national publicity and advertising campaign. Protected local territories now open exclusively to firemen and retired firemen, but you must act *now!* All inquiries confidential.

Write immediately for full details to:

Robert Messler, Vice-President
Sprayaway Corporation of America
P. O. Box 1102 — Tulsa, Oklahoma



NOW... A 750 GPM FRONT MOUNTED PUMP

BARTON-AMERICAN MODEL UA-75

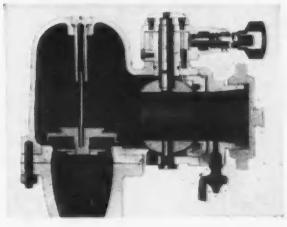
Look at the advantages this biggest Barton-American front mounted pump gives you—extra advantages that help you "kill" fires in a hurry:

The UA-75 is a Class A pump rated at 750 gpm at 150 lbs. Handles *three* 2½" hose lines for volume—and delivers high pressure to 400 lbs. for effective fog streams. You can fight brush fires *while truck is moving* . . . and "nose" down to pond or stream to draft water inaccessible to midship pumpers.

Exclusive, interlocking pump clutch has direct mechanical connection. It *can't* slip! Frost-proof design has been *proven* in thousands of pumps. *Engine vacuum primer* is positive, fast and frost-proof. *Direct controls* make operation fast and easy. Accessibility and simple pump construction cut maintenance time.

The UA-75 includes *factory engineered* p.t.o. shaft, universal joints and pump gear ratios best for *your* truck's engine.

It will pay you to investigate the top-quality, precision-built Barton-American Type UA-75. It *costs less* to buy, install and maintain—because it's simpler!



Has Ball-Type Locking Valves.

Regulates volume as you desire. A quarter-turn of the handle locks it positively in any position. Check valve eliminates need to close hose lines to prime pump. Smooth operation—heavy duty construction.

★ AMERICAN ★
FIRE PUMP COMPANY

WRITE TODAY FOR BULLETIN 8331.

P. O. BOX 219-B BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

Powhatan's DURA-FOG Nozzle

PLATE NO. 261

- Each nozzle sold has a 100% performance test
- A strong husky nozzle
- Maintenance free
- Greater reach
- Finer dispersion which allows less GPM without sacrificing effectiveness
- Denser curtain
- No kickback
- Operates easily under high pressure

√ CHOICE OF SWIVEL OR SOLID BASE

OVER A MILLION SHUT-OFFS AND NEVER A LEAK!

Dura-Fog Nozzles have been thoroughly bench tested, to assure dependability. We strived for 250,000 shut-offs, actually tests have gone over a million with no leak!

TRY IT OUT!

√ You can — by simply writing us and telling us you want to see and test it. Write today!

FLOW IN GPM AT 100 PSI NOZZLE PRESSURE

Size	Straight Stream	30° Fog Pattern	60° Fog Pattern	90° Fog Pattern
1"	20	22	32	35
1½" -60	57	60	72	88
1½" -100	95	100	105	107
2½"	135	165	190	225

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

POWHATAN BRASS & IRON WORKS

RANSON, WEST VIRGINIA

In The Same Location Since 1892

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

ANOTHER FIRST FROM HOWE!

HOWE OFFERS DUAL IGNITION ON A

COMMERCIAL CHASSIS

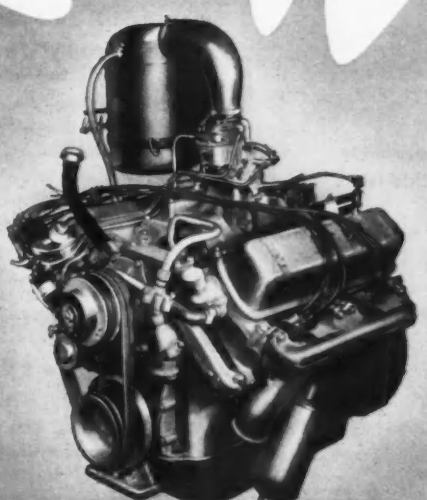
DUAL IGNITION offers dependability—
COMMERCIAL CHASSIS offers economy and convenient servicing.

HOWE immediately recognized the value of a combination of the two and built the first unit—famous HOWE construction on International Harvester chassis with dual ignition.

The International Harvester Co. is the largest manufacturer of heavy-duty truck equipment in the world and the IH chassis including the dual ignition engine can be serviced by any of the thousands of IH service locations throughout the world. Its component parts are the same standard engineered features contained in all IH trucks which give hundreds of thousands of miles of over-the-road service.

HOWE extends its standard 5 year warranty on b o t h equipment and chassis, the same warranty as the custom-built DEFENDER line.

Ask the HOWE representative in your area for complete information regarding HOWE fire trucks or write for colorful brochure.



Dual ignition available on the V-461 (226 HP) and V-549 (256.8 HP) engines.

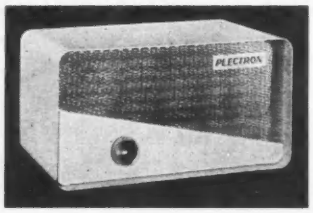
HOWE BUILDS *Only* FIRE TRUCKS

HOWE FIRE APPARATUS COMPANY
Dept. F99 1402 West 22nd St., Anderson, Ind.

PLECTRON

THE ALL NEW

RADIO ALERTING SYSTEM



The PLECTRON Sentry

Place a tone activated PLECTRON F.M. Radio Receiver in each fireman's home and send emergency voice messages direct from your present 2-way base transmitter into every fireman's home.

Benefit from selective calling, silent alarms, and fast, efficient alerting.

Receivers available for any radio frequency in the 25-54 and 152-174 megacycle bands, and for activation from any tone frequency between 500 and 3000 cps.

CHECK THESE FEATURES:

- Fully transformer powered.
- Crystal frequency control.
- Tone activated.
- Automatic reset to "silent standby."
- Super-heterodyne receiver circuit.
- Low power consumption — 28 W.
- Designed for "Narrow-Band" reception.
- 1 MV Sensitivity (10 miles without outdoor antenna).
- Compactly built in ONE case, easily portable — 10" x 5" x 6" deep.
- Attractive metal case, choice of colors.
- Low cost — $89.50 each.
- Complies with Sec. 15 F.C.C.

Distributors and Dealers Throughout the U.S.
For Complete Information
Please Write To:

PLECTRON CORPORATION
OVERTON, NEBRASKA

BUYING NEW EQUIPMENT?

Consider the products advertised in this issue

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this month's Equipment News

Talking "Sparky" Fire Dog Sells Safety to Children

Electronic talking "Sparky" Fire Dogs, 4½-ft. high and dressed in colorful blue denims, boots, white shirt, red suspenders, blue tie and red and white hat, are becoming popular aids to fire prevention programs in schools, industrial plants, television, hospitals and parades. The *Roberts Company*, Box 86D, Wayland, Massachusetts, handles the sale of animated "Sparky" talking fire dogs.

•

Only 8½-ft. long and 4½-ft. wide is the "Firefly," a three-wheel, foreign-made (Lambretta) plant fire truck displayed at the April International Automobile Show in New York. Ease of operation, ruggedness and economy provide real value to the Firefly. Contact *Innocenti Corporation*, 45 Columbus Avenue, New York 23, New York. . . . A useful reference to a full line of fire fighting equipment is contained in the 96-page, pocket-size catalog offered free by *M. L. Snyder & Son, Inc.*, Jasper, York & Boston Avenue, Philadelphia 25, Pennsylvania.

(*Continued on page 42*)

SAVE A LIFE with a MIRA RESUSCITATING TUBE

SOLD NATIONALLY to DOCTORS, NURSES, CIVIC and INDUSTRIAL RESCUE PERSONNEL

Patterned after medically approved oropharyngeal airways, only the *MIRA* Resuscitating Tubes offer:

- *One piece molded construction — truly pocket portable*
- *Nothing to assemble before use*
- *No Parts to misplace or lose*
- *Immediately Ready to use in an emergency*

Comes in two sizes per set: Adult/youth and Child.

Generous Discounts in Dozen Lots or over

Per set $2.50

Individual tube $1.25

The *MIRA* Corporation
2656 North Pasadena Avenue
Los Angeles 31, California

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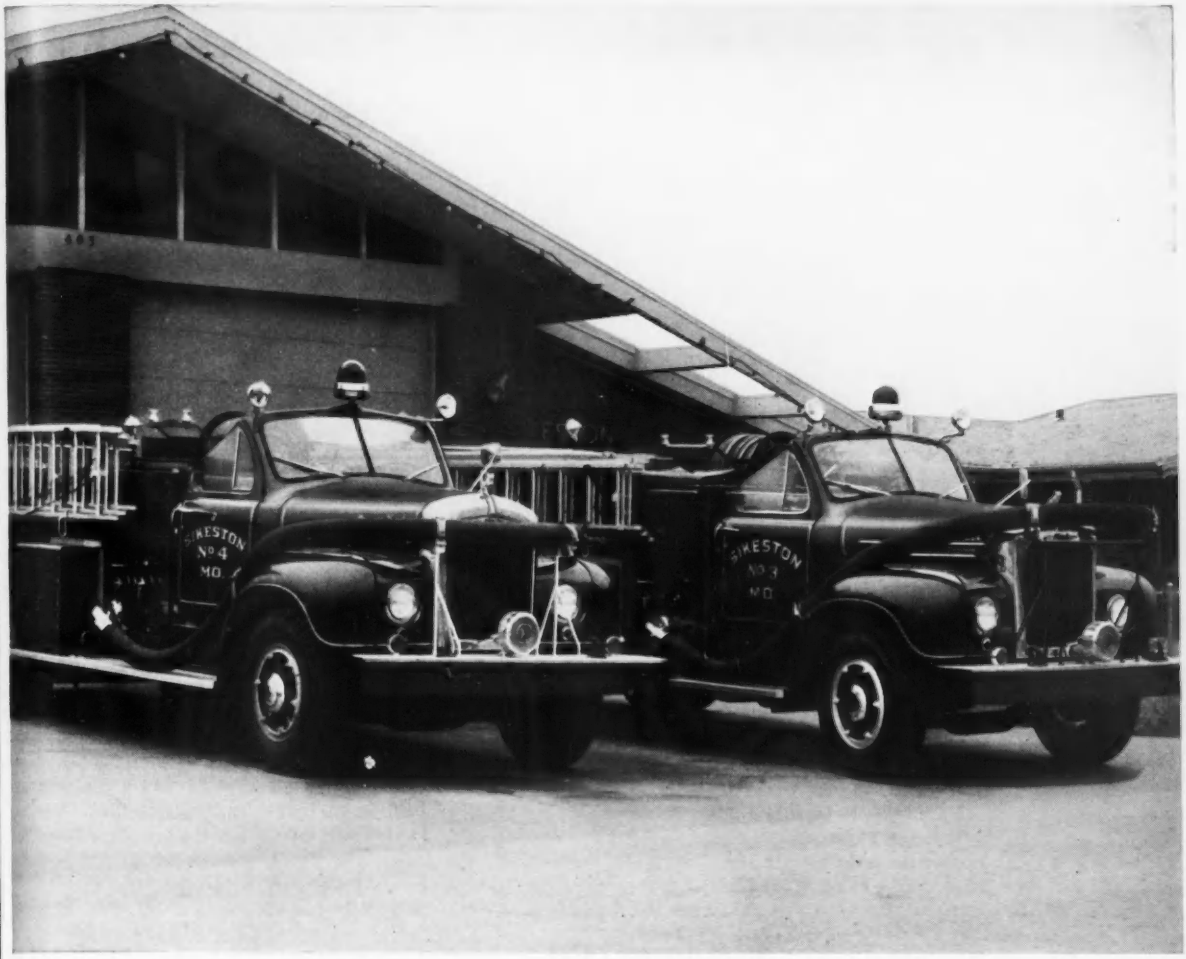

with these new triple-combination Mack pumpers

Sikeston rates with the best

With the addition of two Mack pumpers in 1957 and 1959, Sikeston, Missouri, is as fully equipped and as efficiently manned as any comparable-size city between St. Louis and Memphis. And it's proud of it!

Rated at 750 gpm, one unit carries a 300-gallon booster tank, the other a 500-gallon tank. Otherwise, specifications are identical. Each carries 1700 feet 2½" hose, 500 feet 1½" hose, 200 feet 1" hose, and squirrel-tail suction. Each is equipped with a 14-foot roof ladder, a 24-foot and a 35-foot extension ladder. The pumpers are powered with the famous Mack Thermodyne® engines—with more pumping power . . . more *performance* power . . . than any others in their class.

Considering what Mack has to offer in custom-built apparatus of the finest quality . . . it's short-sighted to settle for anything less. Mack now fields a wide range of cab-forward and standard units . . . offers a choice of engines . . . offers conventional or automatic transmissions . . . offers standard, two-stage pump or the new Uni-Control Hi-Stage pump . . . comes with air or hydraulic braking systems . . . gives you the gear ratios and built-in extras you need.

Ask Mack to show you how Mack is best equipped to supply the equipment that's *right*—in design and performance both. Mack Fire Apparatus, Allentown, Pennsylvania. In Canada: Mack Trucks of Canada, Ltd.

MACK
FIRST NAME FOR
FIRE APPARATUS

COMPLETE LINE OF PUMPERS—500 to 1250 GPM . . . SQUAD AND HOSE WAGONS . . . AERIALS 65′ TO 144′ . . . COMBINATION LADDER TRUCKS

USE THIS FORM

to order materials on opposite page

EASY ORDER BLANK

Order early to forestall transportation delays. Orders received after September 18 cannot be accepted.

PLEASE PRINT

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY AND STATE_____

Current Materials — Illustrated

Quantity		Amount
_____	1. Poster — $3.00 per 100, $25.00 per 1000	$_____
_____	Display Card Poster, 25¢ ea., discount for quantities	_____
_____	2. Fire Facts for '59 — $2.00 per 100, $15.00 per 1000	_____
_____	3. Stickers — 30¢ per 100, discount for quantities	_____
_____	4. Coloring Sheet — 75¢ per 100, $6.00 per 1000	_____
_____	5. Flyer — $1.00 per 100, $7.00 per 1000	_____
_____	6. Blotter — $1.50 per 100, $12.50 per 1000	_____

Undated Materials — Illustrated

	7. Inspection Blanks	
_____	(a) Home Check List — $1.50 per 100, $10.00 per 1000	_____
_____	(b) Sparky's Home Blank — $1.00 per 100, $7.50 per 1000	_____
_____	(c) School Check List — $1.50 per 100, $10.00 per 1000	_____
_____	8. Sparky Coloring Book — 5¢ ea., $5.00 per 100, $45.00 per 1000	_____
	9. Comic Books — $5.00 per 100, $45.00 per 1000	
_____	(a) Early Man and Fire	
_____	(b) Man Learns More About Fire	_____
_____	10. Sparky Comic Book — 5¢ ea., $5.00 per 100, $45.00 per 1000	_____
_____	11. (a) Folder — $1.50 per 100, $12.50 per 1000	_____
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_____	(c) Folder — $3.00 per 100, $23.50 per 1000	_____
_____	(d) Folder — $2.00 per 100, $17.50 per 1000	_____
_____	12. (a) Folder — $2.00 per 100, $17.50 per 1000	_____
_____	(b) Folder — $1.50 per 100, $12.50 per 1000	_____
_____	(c) Folder — $2.50 per 100, $20.00 per 1000	_____
_____	(d) Folder — $5.00 per 100, $35.00 per 1000	_____
_____	(e) Folder — $2.00 per 100, $17.50 per 1000	_____
_____	(f) Folder — $2.00 per 100, $17.50 per 1000	_____

Undated Materials — Not Illustrated

_____	Fire! — What Would You Do? (16-page booklet how to avoid and handle home fires) — $9.00 per 100, $80.00 per 1000	_____
_____	Sparky 1-minute Fire Safety Film with new Sparky Song 16 mm print for TV, schools, etc. — $5.00 each	_____
_____	35 mm print for theatres — $9.75	_____
_____	Sparky Face Mask for Sparky costume, rubber — $1.00 each	_____
_____	Sparky Lapel Tab; 3-color, 1-inch diameter, light metal bend over tab — $2.00 per 100, $15.00 per 1000	_____
_____	Sparky membership kit; badge, card, inspector's manual — 25¢ each, 20¢ each in lots of 5 or more	_____
_____	Story of Sparky's Fire Dept.; 8-page booklet on children's fire safety program — no charge, 1 copy per order	_____
_____	Tested Activities for Fire Prevention Committees; 84-page booklet, illustrated — no charge, 1 copy per order	
		Total $_____

Prices subject to 2% discount if payment accompanies order. All prices F.O.B. Boston. ORDERS SHIPPED EXPRESS COLLECT. NFPA members may receive single copy of all items gratis. Others may receive samples of all items except Display Card free upon request. Items No. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (a), (b), (c), (d), 12 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), have space for imprints of names of campaign sponsors which may be added locally by purchasers.

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

60 Batterymarch Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts

This Month's Equipment News

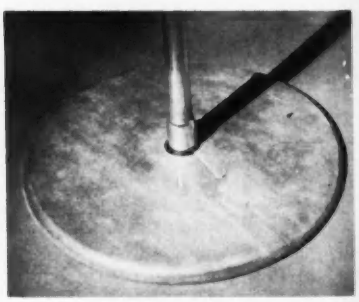
(*Continued from page 40*)

Pressurized Dry Chemical Extinguisher

A new, low cost, 2½-pound pressurized dry chemical extinguisher in chrome or vermilion red finish and 4-B, C UL rating is announced by *Fyr-Fyter Company*, 221 Crane Street, Dayton 1, Ohio.

"Sparky" Catalog

A fire-red jacket for youngsters, a key tag, belt and buckle, and a professional dress badge for Sparky's Fire Departments are some of the new items listed in a catalog just published by the *Roberts Company*, Box 86D, Wayland, Massachusetts. The popular Sparky doll, T-shirts and sweat shirts are featured together with the entire selection of authorized Sparky products recommended for Fire Prevention Week prizes and awards. Orders or inquiries for these products should be directed to the *Roberts Company* at the above address.



"Cush-N-Flor" Platform for Sliding Poles

Here is the new "Cush-N-Flor" sliding pole platform that really cushions the shock of landing. Made of molded sponge rubber block, 28-in. in diameter, and 1 3/16-in. thick, "Cush-N-Flor's" dovetail slit provides easy installation and locks into place. Write to *Clipper Industries, Inc.*, P. O. Box 8, Evanston, Illinois.

Get these colorful items for

Fire Prevention Week, October 4–10, 1959

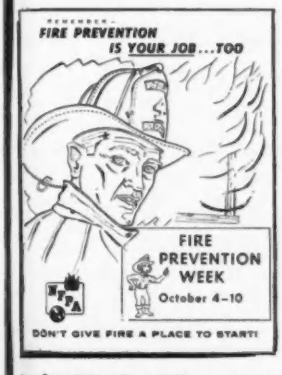
1. POSTER — 11 x 17, Red and Black (also available on display card)

7. INSPECTION BLANKS — 8½ x 11
   (a) Home Check List for self inspections
   (b) Sparky's Home Inspection Blank
   (c) School Check List for school and public distribution

2. FIRE FACTS FOR '59 — 8½ x 11, 2-page color fact and picture sheet

3. STICKER — 1½ x 1⅛, 2-color, perforated, for use on outgoing mail, packages

8. COLORING BOOK — 6 x 9, 16 pages of coloring for children, with fire prevention story and new Sparky song



4. COLORING SHEET — 8½ x 11, Fire Prevention Week poster for children to color

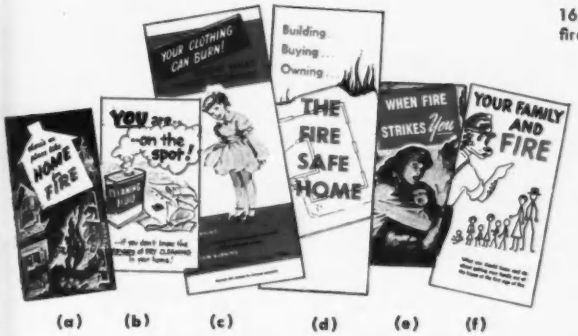
6. BLOTTER — 3¾ x 8½, 2-color

10. SPARKY COMIC BOOK — 7½ x 10, full color 16-page cartoon story of fire departments

9. COMIC BOOKS — 5 x 7, full color
   (a) Early Man and Fire
   (b) Man Learns More About Fire

(a)

(b)



(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

12. FOLDERS — in color, for mailings, home and employe distribution

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